



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Harvest Festival Kicks Off a Bountiful Month

By Erin O'Briant

October may turn out to be the busiest month of the year for Noe Valleyans. There's the Harvest Fest on Oct. 13, and the first-ever Noe Valley House Tour sponsored by the Victorian Alliance on Oct. 21. Then comes Halloween 10 days later, when most of us, young and old, can't resist getting dressed up for treat-or-treating on 24th Street. It's time to start sewing—or scouring the thrift stores for a costume.

Pick a Pumpkin on 24th Street

You'll need to wear something special to win the costume contest at the third annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival, which takes place on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The street fair, held on 24th Street from Sanchez to Church, will feature more than 70 arts and food booths; contests, games, and performers on two stages; the traditional pumpkin patch; and the ever-popular ride in a haywagon pulled by horses through Downtown Noe Valley. A labor of love by a core group of volunteers, the event is sponsored by dozens of neighborhood groups and businesses, including Friends of Noe Valley, the Noe Valley Association (CBD), and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Fair organizers say one of the surprises

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Smokey Stover They're Not: If you'd like a slow, scenic ride to the Harvest Festival on Oct. 13, climb aboard the haywagon in front of Walgreen's on Castro Street. The horses will be clomping down 24th Street from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Photo by Sally Smith

Alvarado School Determined Not to Leave Any Child Behind

By Bob Oaks

When Todd David and Tiffany Loewenberg finished researching where to send their son Noah to kindergarten, they chose Alvarado Elementary School on Douglass Street. They considered private, religious, and other district elementary schools, but they were especially attracted to Alvarado's award-winning Spanish-language immersion program. They also wanted Noah to attend a school that reflected San Francisco's cultural diversity.

Noah has only been an Alvarado student for a couple of months, but his parents are convinced they made the right choice. The school is "outstanding," says David. Noah eagerly goes off each morning and willingly does the five to ten minutes of homework he gets each day.

Besides having a head start in Spanish, Noah will get to take part in the Alvarado Arts Program, a legacy of renowned Noe Valley artist Ruth Asawa. The school's playground murals, created by the stu-

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Iraq War Protest March to Begin On 24th Street

By Doug Konecky

On Saturday, Oct. 27, Noe Valleyans Kathy Setian, Steve Hyman, and Christopher Omran are hoping to see 24th Street filled with citizens united against the war in Iraq. Oct. 27 is a National Day of Action Against the War, with rallies and marches planned in cities across the country. San Francisco's rally will take place at Civic Center Plaza, the scene of many such protests since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. But what makes this event different is that some neighborhoods will send their own contingents to the rally by first assembling in their local community.

In Noe Valley, people will meet at the corner of Castro and 24th streets at 10 a.m. and march down 24th Street toward the J-Church streetcar while carrying their homemade signs and banners. At Church Street, participants will board the streetcar together and ride to Civic Center

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Noe's Carnegie Library Seeking Landmark Status

By Corrie M. Anders

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library will have a new manager—and perhaps new landmark status as a historical treasure—when the branch reopens next year after a \$5.7 million seismic facelift.

Alice McCloud, a six-year veteran of the San Francisco Public Library system, will be in charge when the branch resumes checking out books in the spring, only a couple of months later than originally anticipated.

McCloud's appointment was one of several recent events involving the branch at 451 Jersey Street:

★ The library now is projected to reopen sometime in March 2008, according to several library officials. The facility had been set to restart operations "in late 2007."

★ With a huge assist from the sale of 250 commemorative bricks, a neighborhood fundraising effort to help pay for the library's interior fixtures surpassed its \$150,000 goal. The outpouring of local support prompted fundraisers to set a new target of \$200,000.

★ The first step towards designating the nearly century-old Beaux Arts build-

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Indomitable Dufty Declares 'Best Year of My Life'

By Lorraine Sanders

This month, the *Noe Valley Voice* asked District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty to give us the dish (and the dirt) on his new home in the Haight, family life, civic work for the neighborhood, and all the drama at City Hall. But before we tell you what he said, here's a little background on our loyal representative. Dufty, 52, is the father and co-parent—along with close friend Rebecca Goldfader—of a daughter, Sidney, celebrating her first birthday on Oct. 2. The son of a writer and a Jewish mother who fled Europe during World War II after losing most of her family to the Nazi regime, Dufty grew up in Manhattan surrounded by the jazz musicians his mother managed. (The legendary Billie Holiday was even his godmother.) As a teenager, Dufty relocated to California with his mother following his parents' divorce. He began his political career as an intern for Representative Shirley Chisolm, the first black woman elected to Congress, and has been in politics ever since. He was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2002 and is currently serving his second term.

When we caught up with him at his City Hall office on Sept. 13, 2007, a fresh-from-vacation Dufty was buzzing with energy and ready to chat about his recent successes on the job, his Halloween (and parenting) anxiety, and why a certain fellow supervisor keeps bringing back memories of the third grade.

Voice: Over the summer, you moved into your new house in the Haight.

We're not going to hold that against you, but we would like to know how your new digs are treating you.

Dufty: In my first week, my housemate's car was broken into. And then my car was in front of my house, and Sidney's car seat, stroller, jogging stroller, and teddy bear rearview mirror that allows me

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Sidney Maely Goldfader-Dufty, who turns 1 this month, has become a handful for new parents Rebecca Goldfader and Bevan Dufty. But her tantrums are nothing compared to the tempests our District 8 supervisor has weathered at City Hall.
Photo by Pamela Gerard

Herb's Closes!

See Rumors, Page 49



Civilized Shade. This leafy but well-pruned tree on Dolores Street offers protection from the sun of our fading Indian summer.

Photo by Jack Tipple



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Main Stage

(24th at Church Street)

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10:30 am - 11:30 am

Kids' Costume Contest
11:30 am

Primp My Stroller Contest
12:00 pm

Playdate - Rock for All Ages
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Dog Costume and Dog Tricks Contest
1:30 pm

Pie Eating Contest
1:45 pm

Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

NiteCaps Blues Band
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Noe Valley Farmers' Market Music Tent

(24th at The Market)

Jude Reseigne - Ballads & A Variety of Blues/Pop
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Ian Shaul - Blues/Bluegrass/Country Originals
11:00 am - 12:15 pm

They Call Me Lucky - Americana & Country Rock
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Swing Serenade - Popular Music from the 1930's & '40's
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Quake City Jug Band - 1920's & 30's Swing & Jazz
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Skiffle Symphony - Old Time Jug Band Music
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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or More Information:

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Noe Valley Democratic Club

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Kamala Harris



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Mike Hennessey

— CITY PROPOSITIONS —

- A – YES — Transit Reform
 - B – YES — Limit on Hold-Over Service
 - C – YES — Public Hearings on Ballot Measures
 - D – YES — Library Preservation Fund
 - E – NO — Question Time
 - F – YES — Retirement Benefits for Airport Officers
 - G – YES — Golden Gate Park Horse Stables Funding
 - H – NO — Parking Initiative
 - I – YES — Small Business Assistance Center
 - J – NO — Universal Wi-Fi Policy Statement
 - K – — Street Advertising Policy Statement
- NO ENDORSEMENT**

The Noe Valley Democratic Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street

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Lisa Yip, Owner of Sea Breeze, Dies at 58

Lisa Yip, who ran Sea Breeze Cleaners at 1420 Castro Street for more than 20 years, died suddenly on July 23 of cardiac arrest. She was 58 years old. She and her husband Jim Yip had been running Golden City Inn on Silver and Third Street when they started Sea Breeze in 1979, one block away from their present location. In 1984, they purchased the building of the former Synergy School and have been there ever since. Jim Yip died in 1996.

Lisa Yip leaves three sons—Justin, 32, Jeremy, 37, and Jason, 38—who intend to continue to run Sea Breeze and their other shop, Wind Water Cleaners, on Monterey Street.

"We've been here a long time,"



A portrait of Lisa Yip as a young woman stands surrounded by flowers at the shop she founded. Photo by Doug Konecky

Justin Yip says. "Our parents bought this building from the Synergy School, which was located right here. They kept the painting the school kids did of the cityscape, and we plan to continue to preserve it."

Lisa Huie Yip was born in China's Canton province in 1949, moved with her mother to Hong Kong two years later, and then arrived in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1954 to join up with her father. The family came to San Francisco in 1958 and Lisa attended St. Mary's Day School and Galileo High School. Her brothers Arthur and George, and her sister Jane, were all born in the United States.

Jane has many fond memories of her big sister, including sharing their room with a huge stuffed panda that Jimmy, who would become Lisa's husband, had won for her at the Portsmouth Square Fair during Chinese New Year.

Son Jason remembers his mom as a "woman warrior"—able to work late hours at the laundry but still retaining the energy to indulge her hobbies—one of which was playing the slots in Reno. That she had such strength makes it difficult to imagine her gone at such a young age, he said.

A memorial service was held for Lisa Yip at Evergreen Mortuary of McAvoy O'Hara Company in the Richmond District. Many of her longtime customers were present at the services. Lisa Yip is buried next to her husband at Hoy Sun Memorial Cemetery in Colma.

—Doug Konecky



Lee Aubry 1978 photo courtesy Kim Aubry

Mitre Box Founder Lee Aubry, 1928–2007

By Steve Steinberg

Noe Valley has lost another of its oldtime merchants, with the passing of Lee Aubry on Aug. 3. Aubry, 79, owned the Mitre Box framing shop on 24th Street, from its founding in 1974 until she sold the business in 1991.

Aubry, who was also a Noe Valley resident, had been living in a hospice during her final months, according to her son Kim Aubry. She had been suffering from cancer as well as symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Born and raised in Coney Island, New York, Aubry attended Queens College and then worked as a copywriter and interior designer. She also raised two sons, got married and divorced, and then, like so many others, decided to pull up stakes and "reinvent herself" in San Francisco.

The arts were a lifelong passion for Aubry, said Kim Aubry, who described his mom as a "talented artist and amateur musician." Opening the Mitre Box in 1974, three years after she arrived in San

Francisco, was one way for her to channel her artistic energies. Although the Mitre Box eventually became and still is a full-service frame shop, the store started out as a do-it-yourself art studio and was somewhat of a pioneer on 24th Street. "Customers would bring in their prints, paintings, and photos and would get a lesson in assembling the matte and frame," recalled Kim. Local residents loved the hands-on approach, he said, and appreciated Lee Aubry's personal design advice.

During Aubry's tenure, the Mitre Box tended to employ aspiring artists and art students as a way of elevating the shop's quality of service. Many of those former employees went on to become established artists or gallery owners or to open their own framing shops.

Servio Gomez, proprietor of Back to the Picture framers on Valencia Street, was one of Aubry's protégés. "Lee was a mentor and supporter to me," Gomez says. "She was always encouraging." He recalled that after she sold the Mitre Box, Aubry would sometimes come to him for her own framing projects.

Aubry was also a smart businesswoman, buying up the property at 1303 Castro as a hedge in case she ever lost her lease at the Mitre Box. "She believed the business part of business should be taken seriously," said her son. Some years later, she opened a branch of the Mitre Box on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley.

After she retired in 1991, Aubry did some traveling, spent time with her four grandchildren, and pattered around with remodeling projects at her 23rd Street home. She also dedicated herself to such causes as Parkinson's research, election finance reform, and world peace.

Besides her grandchildren, Lee Aubry is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, her sons Kim and Rick, and their wives.

Donations in her name can be sent to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Attn: Tribute Gifts, Church Street Station, P.O. Box 780, New York, NY 10008-0780. For further information, go to www.michaeljfox.org or call 1-800-708-7644. ■



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LETTERS 41¢

CBD's Street-Cleaning All Wet Editor:

This letter is in reference to the CBD [Community Benefit District, known officially as the Noe Valley Association]. I question who really benefits in Noe Valley, besides the merchants. The property owners are paying for the upgrades, and I believe that some may be paying more than they realize.

On at least seven separate occasions—twice on 24th Street and five times on Castro Street—I have seen the CBD employees tapping into faucets on private property to fill the containers they use to water the hanging flower baskets and the planted trees. I am sure these are not isolated cases. Are the owners of these properties aware of what's going on? With all the talk of water rationing, are these people going to be cited for overusage?

Last week, the CBD employees steam-cleaned Castro Street by tapping into Walgreen's faucet and then tapping into a faucet on the corner of Jersey and Castro streets. The cleaning lasted at least one hour for each side of the street. The employees used the water not just to clean in front of these properties but for the entire block. In the beginning, when they steam-cleaned 24th Street, they used the city fire hydrants (something else I think is wrong), but now they are clearly abusing private property owners' rights.

As for the flower baskets, how much was wasted on the ones that were "planted" on top of the public garbage cans? As for the hanging ones, when the original idea was submitted, the baskets were to be supplied by Rock and Rose Landscaping on Cortland Avenue, a San Francisco-based company. However, the

CBD contracted with a company in Oregon. How many florists are in the CBD area in Noe Valley? How many nurseries are in San Francisco? The CBD definitely leaves a lot to be desired.

M. Brown
Noe Valley

Bell Milking Us?

Generally, I shop at Rainbow Grocery on Folsom, since Real Food Company has closed. However, for convenience, I often buy organic half-and-half at Bell Market, where it costs \$3.19. While shopping at Rainbow a few weeks ago, I noticed that the store's identical half-and-half (a pint of Clover organic) was \$1.40 cheaper. I thought it was on sale, but no, that's Rainbow's standard price. I was dumbstruck, to say the least.

A few days later, I found myself at Ferry Plaza on the Embarcadero, and for the sake of comparison I went into the Capay Market inside the Ferry Building to price its half-and-half. It was \$1.99. The same kind of disparity applied to the quart of Clover organic 2% milk.

I don't buy much else at Bell, so I don't know how the other products compare to those at other stores, but I do know that Bell should be ashamed of itself. Neither Rainbow nor Capay has a central distribution system, nor the benefit of a national corporation behind it, and still both stores manage to offer these products at a reasonable markup.

I e-mailed Bell's parent company, Kroger Corporation, asking for an explanation, and got a generic reply from a company representative who said that the store was concerned with my comments and is in a very competitive market in California. They also apologized and told me that my e-mail had been forwarded to the marketing department for review. In mid-September, I hadn't heard back yet.

People are worried about Whole Foods taking over Bell for fear that prices will be higher. Maybe not.

Lisa Frank
Via e-mail

Reading About Heroes

I loved the four heroes—Loren Schaller is one, too—in the last issue ["Blood Drive Honors Teen's Three Heroes," September 2007 *Voice*], and I searched the Internet quite a bit for different versions and more details. Then I told my neighbor about it, and her response was: "What happened to the attacker guy?" I had no response, I didn't know.

The short of it is, I found it refreshing that the media and those quoted in the stories didn't care much about what happened to the guy. People liked the good parts: the passersby coming to Loren's rescue, and her neighbors helping by holding a blood drive.

A couple of years ago, our neighborhood had a beautiful 15-year-old girl go off a 100-foot cliff in a car and start a new life after a weeklong coma. She had to relearn every infantile skill, including swallowing. I raised funds for her for a long time. It just felt good.

Burt Wojciechowski
Via e-mail

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. E-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include your name, address, and a phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
Erin O'Brian, *Features Editor*
Olivia Boler, *Last Page Editor*
Laura McHale Holland, *Associate Editor*
Corrie M. Anders, Heidi Anderson, Karol Barske,
Sue Cattoche, Helen Colgan, Jan Goben, Suzanne
Herel, Liz Highleyman, John Hohulin, Florence
Holub, Jeff Kaliss, Doug Konecky, Bob Oaks, Lisa
Powell, Pat Rose, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Lorraine
Sanders, Karen Topkian, John Trinkl, Kate Volkman

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Pamela Gerard, *Photo Editor*
Beverly Tharp, *Senior Photographer*
Najib Joe Hakim, *Senior Photographer*
Jan Brittonson, Leo Holub, Charles Kennard,
Doug Konecky, Ken Newman, Paula Whitehead

PRODUCTION
Jack Tipple & Sally Smith with the help of Jon Elkin

ILLUSTRATION
Karol Barske

WEB DESIGN
Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES
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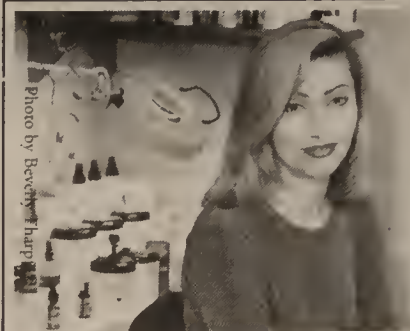
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Library Retrofit Brings a New Branch Manager

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing as a historic landmark gets under way Oct. 17, when the city holds a public hearing on the matter.

★ Architect Alice Carey will give a free presentation Oct. 17 on the historical significance of the library building. She'll also describe several other city libraries that philanthropist Andrew Carnegie helped finance.



Alice McCloud

McCloud worked as a middle-school math teacher in Miami, Fla., for 12 years before joining the city's library system in 2001. She currently serves as branch manager—the title the city now gives head librarians—at the Ingleside Branch.

"My interest is in helping children, so I'm looking forward to working at the Noe Valley Branch, which has an entire room dedicated to children, as well as a full-time children's librarian," said McCloud.

Her priorities, she said, also will include increasing the number of teenagers using the library—she's already at work building Noe Valley's teen book collection—and reactivating community, educational, and entertainment programs for adults.

McCloud lives in Pacifica and eventually plans to relocate to Noe Valley. In her latest managerial assignment, she will take over from Carol Small, who filled the roles of both branch manager and children's librarian for two years prior to the Noe Valley Library's closing in February 2006.

"I'll return to being a fulltime chil-

dren's librarian" when the branch reopens, said Small.

Construction crews are closing in on the last six months of Noe Valley's earthquake retrofit, which will include technological upgrades, improvements for handicapped patrons, a new full-service elevator, new bathrooms, and better bookshelf space. The facade of the building will be largely preserved.

Though the renovation suffered from more than five years of delays, downtown library officials last month appeared to have a pretty clear idea of when the branch would reopen.

"We'll reopen in March," said Mindy Linetzky, who toured the building in September in her oversight capacity as the San Francisco Public Library's bond program manager.

"It's gorgeous inside," said Linetzky. "There's still scaffolding and construc-

tion going on. But the ceiling and light fixtures in the main reading room are just gorgeous. The flooring looks great. And the outside of the building is all cleaned up and sparkling."

"It's gorgeous inside. There's still scaffolding and construction going on. But the ceiling and light fixtures in the main reading room are just gorgeous."

—Mindy Linetzky

The Noe Valley Library Campaign held book-signing parties, spaghetti feeds, and similar activities to raise funds to purchase computers, furniture, shelving, and other supplies that the city's budget didn't cover. The sale of \$250 bricks,



When the renovation is completed this spring, the Noe Valley Library will have an uncluttered facade, enabling the Carnegie building to show off its Beaux Arts architecture. There also will be a new branch manager joining children's librarian Carol Small. Photo by Charles Kennard

which will be engraved with donors' names and placed on the front patio of the restored library, alone raised \$62,500.

"We just finished the sale last month and sold 250 bricks," said campaign chair Kim Drew. "That was very exciting."

Drew said the successful drive—in which more than 400 individuals and families contributed—highlighted "the neighborhood's enthusiasm and love of the library" and encouraged the campaign to continue raising money. "We increased the goal to \$200,000," she said.

In addition to the building's renovation, efforts are also under way to designate the classic two-story structure a historic landmark. The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board will discuss the issue at its regular session on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 12:30 p.m., in Room 400 at City Hall (call 558-6378 to confirm).

The branch is already registered with the board as an architecturally significant building. Landmark status, however, would provide an extra layer of protection.

"Any change [in the building] that requires a city permit will require a certificate of appropriateness from the landmarks board," said Sophie Middlebrook, a preservation specialist with the city's Planning Department.

Also on Oct. 17, architect Carey, who directs the firm that drew up plans for the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn renovation, will give a lecture hosted by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at 391 Grove Street at 6 p.m.

"She will talk about the wonderful legacy of San Francisco's Carnegie libraries, including the Noe Valley Branch," said Friends member Marian Chatfield-Taylor, who is assisting the Noe Valley fundraising effort.

To get involved with either project—fundraising or landmark designation—contact Chatfield-Taylor at 626-7512, ext. 103.



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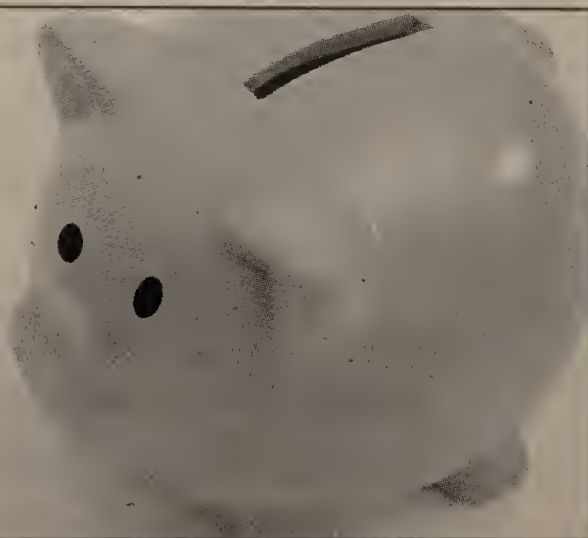
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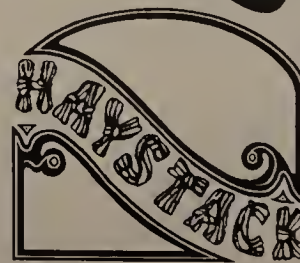
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Beware: The Wicked Witch of the Nest (and her little dog, too!) may lure you into her shop with sweets and pet tricks, come Halloween on 24th Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Revelers Reap October Harvest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this year will be a new Primp My Stroller Contest. Sponsored by Artery studio, the competition will ask Noe Valleyans to decorate their baby strollers to see who has the snazziest at the fest. Contestants in the 18-and-up category have a chance to win a brand-new stroller and a \$100 gift certificate to Incanto Ristorante. Baby blingers ages 13 to 17 could take home a \$50 gift certificate to Artsake, and those under age 12 can win a gift certificate to the Ark toy shop. To participate, come to the main stage at Church and 24th streets at noon. Winners will be chosen by Supervisor Bevan Duffy.

Other contest participants can compare dog tricks, dogs in Halloween costumes (kids in costume, too), pie-eating skills, and gardening presentations. This year's raffle prizes include haircuts, restaurant gift certificates, a gym membership, museum passes, and more.

More Crafts and More Food

Festival spokesperson Linda Saytes says folks can expect to see many more artists and craftspeople this year—some hailing from the neighborhood. Eighty-five kinds of art, photography, jewelry, clothing, and crafts will be on display, including landscape paintings, beaded hair-clips, and handmade leather jackets. And after you've seen all that, there's juggling, a caricaturist, and face-painting, too.

Good eats also will be in plentiful supply. According to Saytes, three new food vendors will sell treats this year: Bennett Valley Bread and Pastry, which specializes in handcrafted rustic breads; Juicy Lucy's, an organic juice and smoothie maker; and Sukhi's Indian Foods, which specializes in samosas, chutneys, marinades, and naan. In addition, there will be goodies from the local Kookez Cafe, Mission Kids Coop, Narsai's, and Peas of Mind.

The new addition to the fest's music lineup is the Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble, a San Francisco-based group that includes kids from all over the Bay Area. Other performers are the Noe Valley rock band Playdate, the James Lick Middle School rock band, and the blues band Nitecaps with Noe Valleyan Brian McCue. In addition, the Farmers' Market will be in full swing from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., with its own lineup of musicians performing folk, blues, and rock.

Noe Valley merchants will be selling raffle tickets before and during the festival. Look in store windows for the flyer with the colorful pumpkins, leaves, and animal characters. The image was the creation of 18-year-old Ann Louise Markison, who won this year's festival logo

contest. Saytes says Markison, a lifelong Noe Valley resident and a School of the Arts graduate, has won several other arts awards and is planning to begin school at the Maryland Institute College of Art with a scholarship this January.

Parking for the fair will be available for a \$10 donation at James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe Street (your donation will go the school's programs). The free hayride, which is sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, will start at 11 a.m. in front of the Walgreen's on Castro Street near Jersey. Note: the horses stop around 2:30 p.m. For more information, including a listing of booths and performers, visit the festival web site at www.noevalleyharvestfestival.com.

Noe Victorians on Parade

As if the Harvest Fest weren't enough excitement, the following weekend you can sneak a peek inside the "painted ladies" of Noe Valley at the Victorian Alliance's House Tour, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. The walking tour includes 10 stops: two churches and eight private residences, within the boundaries of 22nd, Clipper, Vicksburg, and Diamond streets. A shuttle van will be available for those who need it.

Tickets for the Noe Valley House Tour are \$25; purchase yours on the day of the tour at the ticket booth that will be set up on Elizabeth Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. The Alliance will also sell advance tickets at the Harvest Festival on Oct. 13. For more information, call 824-2666 or visit www.victorianalliance.org.

Cackling All the Way to Hoffman

The final showstopper of the month will be Halloween, of course. As most Noe Valleyans know, the witching hour comes early on Oct. 31, starting whenever the stores on 24th Street creak open their doors (usually around 11 a.m.). "The merchants always have treats for the kids," explains Donna Davis, owner of Forbeadin and co-president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association. And kids of all ages are invited to drop by the local shops from afternoon through early evening.

Meanwhile, the hotbed of activity on Church Street is likely to be the One-Stop Party Shop near 28th Street, which has extended hours Oct. 31 to help with last-minute getups, fake wigs, and whiskers.

Up on Hoffman, "a great group of witches is brewing up cauldrons of Halloween excitement," says Marilyn Lucas, one of the organizers of the annual Halloween festivities on Noe's most haunted avenue. This year, the cobwebs on Hoffman will stretch from 24th to Alvarado streets, from 6 to 8 p.m. Lucas says there will be scads of treats, ghastly decorations, and maybe even a skeleton band. Listen for the eerie music. ■

Halloween in the City

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, traditional festivities in the Castro on Halloween night have been cancelled and no official party is scheduled. But there are many Halloween activities all over the city throughout the month of October. Here are just a few, supplied to the *Voice* by a fortune teller working at the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Friday through Sunday, Oct. 5-7
Shock It to Me!

This three-day horror film festival at the Castro Theatre features 12 classic chillers, and guest stars Veronica Carlson (*Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed*) and director Joe Dante (*The Howling*). Call 621-6120 or visit www.castrotheatre.com or www.shock-it-to-me.com.

Saturday, Oct. 27

Family Halloween Day

The Randall Museum offers ghoulish games, pumpkins, two shows of "Tricks and Treats," and Jackie Jones and her amazing dancing cat, 199 Museum Way, off Roosevelt above 14th and Castro streets, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 554-9600 or visit www.randallmuseum.org.

Saturday, Oct. 27

Boo at the Zoo

The yearly event at the San Francisco Zoo is highlighted by a Haunted Nature Trail, a Creepy Crawley Critter show, and goril-

las, bears, and chimps enjoying a "Pumpkin Stomp and Chomp." San Francisco Zoo, One Zoo Road, Great Highway and Sloat, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free with paid zoo admission. For more information, call 415-753-7080 or visit www.sfbayzoo.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

Ghost Walk

City Guides conducts a free walk through the haunted halls of City Hall, featuring assassination lore and a ghost-filled cemetery. 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, 6:30 p.m. Call 557-4266 or visit www.sfcityguides.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

The Haunted Presidio

Dress warmly and bring a flashlight for a Halloween park adventure with Ranger Rik Penn. Presidio of San Francisco, corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Funston Avenue, 6 to 7:30 p.m. For reservations (required), call 561-4323 or visit www.parksconservancy.org.

Friday, Nov. 2

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

The annual procession through the Mission District begins at the corner of 24th and Bryant, 7 p.m. Bring flowers, photos, or other mementos of the lives of those now gone, to the Festival of Altars at Harrison and 26th streets. For more information, visit www.dayofthedeadsf.org, or to see a Día de los Muertos walking tour go to www.jwalks.com.

Rated ★★ Michael Bauer, San Francisco Chronicle



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Reviews

There is a certain kind of summer film, the big budget busting blockbuster. Movie studios will spend millions on a special effects heavy -but otherwise slight - big screen offering. We here at Video Wave find nothing wrong with that, we like all types of films, even ones that might be called eye candy (in small doses). Coming soon, some summer blockbusters, and a few box office bombs too.

Summer films coming soon:

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer; *28 Weeks Later*; *The Transformers*; *Meet the Robinsons*; *Spider Man 3*; *Shrek the Third*; *A Mighty Heart*; *Live Free or Die Hard*; *Evan Almighty*; *Invisible*; *The Reaping*; *Mr. Brooks*; *Surf's Up*; *Reign Over Me*; *The Hoax*

Coming soon and eagerly anticipated:

We think Pixar produces some great films, full of artistry and humor. We expect this offering to be right up there with their best, such as *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*, or *Monsters Inc.* Arrives early November.

Ratatouille

Recommended Titles:

In addition to all the standard Hollywood summer fare, expect good independent cinema too, such as: *Jindabyne* (an excellent Australian adaptation of an Raymond Carver short story, by the maker of *Lantana*); *Friends of God: A Road trip with Alexandra Pelos* (a documentary about Christian fundamentalists, their beliefs and practices in red state USA); and *Man Push Cart* (about a Pakistani rock star who opens a hot dog cart in Manhattan).

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(Trust Building Tip #92)
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Google Shifts Bus Stop to Church Street

By Corrie M. Anders

The Google shuttle-bus flap in Noe Valley is over—at least temporarily.

In a move to mollify irritated residents, the giant search-engine company has relocated its employee bus stop at the corner of 24th and Castro several blocks east to Church Street.

After Oct. 1, Google's commuter buses will no longer use residential streets west of Church Street, as the firm had been doing since the private transit service started in early 2006.

The original routes and pickup spots had upset many local residents, especially those on Jersey Street, which had the highest volume of shuttle traffic. They complained that the buses, which ferry Google workers between Noe Valley and the firm's Mountain View headquarters, were noisy and too big for use on the neighborhood's narrower streets.

Jersey Street resident Jacqui Sawers, who led the campaign to steer the buses off Noe Valley's residential streets, applauded Google's decision to revise the commuter route.

"We're very happy about it," said Sawers, a legal assistant. "They heard our concerns, and this is a community-spirited response from them."

Google spokeswoman Sunny Gettinger said the change would benefit the high-tech company as well as local residents. The firm, which also operates shuttles in other Bay Area cities, has a corporate policy of putting the service near public transportation.

"Moving the stop allows us to do that better," said Gettinger, who also lives in Noe Valley.

For security reasons, Gettinger would not specify precisely where along Church Street the buses would pick up and leave employees. But several Google workers who take advantage of the shuttle said the stop would be situated near 24th and Church streets, a busy intersection for public transit in the neighborhood. That location would enable company workers

to take Muni's J-Church streetcar line on Church Street or the 48-Quintara on 24th Street, or walk to and from the stop.

Jersey Street residents and their Castro Street neighbors began complaining publicly following a June 7 meeting Sawers hosted at her home. Google then used alternative routes on 25th and other streets to relieve the traffic burden on Jersey Street.

Sawers said residents weren't in support of what she called the "spreading-the-love option" because "we felt it was just creating more problems." The group held several meetings with Google and City Hall representatives, which led to last month's compromise.

The agreement did not consider related traffic issues. Residents had wanted Google to use smaller buses and to reduce the frequency of the 15 or more daily trips in and out of Noe Valley. "This was one of our primary safety concerns, and we're still concerned about it," Sawers said. "Church Street didn't alleviate that."

Approximately 100 residents have signed a petition asking the city to impose weight restrictions that would limit the size of private buses and commercial vehicles on the neighborhood's residential streets, she said.

Residents last month also asked Supervisor Bevan Dufty to consider weight-limit legislation.

"It was always a long-term goal of our group to introduce weight limits to remove the potential for future bus routes and address the increasing burden of large trucks," the residents said in a letter to the supervisor. "The objective is to come up with a more cohesive plan to address traffic in Noe Valley while taking into account the needs of community-based businesses."

City regulations prohibit commercial vehicles over three tons on many, but not all, residential streets in Noe Valley. The largest Google buses weigh 24 tons and have a capacity for 55 passengers.

Google operates the shuttle service under a contract with Bauer's Worldwide Intelligent Transportation, a San Francisco corporate limousine service.



Noe Valley's 'Day Of Action' Oct. 27

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for an 11 a.m. rally. If the streetcars are full, the marchers will continue down 24th Street to Mission Street and hop on BART.

Setian, Hyman, and Omran are at different points in their lives, but each feels frustrated with our government's refusal to take concrete steps to end the war.

Setian, an environmental engineer who is also one of the organizers of the Noe Valley march, says, "The thing I like about October 27 is that it's a genuine coalition. Many different groups with lots of different politics are participating. Our common goal is to end this war."

Hyman, who has been restoring historic sailing ships in San Francisco Bay for 31 years, is marching because he's had enough of the policies of our current president. "Too many Americans and Iraqis have died. I was in Army intelligence during the Vietnam War. I still believe in national service. But George Bush has made national service into a travesty. It makes me sick."

Chris Omran is a 15-year-old high school student at International High. What he says makes a lot of sense: "My

parents have tried to convince me that if someone at school attacks me, I shouldn't hit them back, but instead try and figure out why they did it, or at least notify a teacher. But President Bush didn't ask any questions. He just went and destroyed a whole country because of the World Trade Center. And he even got the country wrong."

According to the organizers, hundreds of groups have endorsed the National Day of Action, but the local residents' reasons for getting involved have nothing to do with who else is coming.

"It's about taking control of our lives," says Hyman. "The Republicans and Democrats have failed us. I'm fed up with going about my daily life and not doing something to end this war."

Setian echoes his statements. "I'm a baby boomer. My generation was always criticizing the German people for sitting on their hands during the Nazi period. 'What were those people thinking?' we'd say. I think it's a crime against humanity to stay silent anymore."

She and the other Noe Valley participants are asking their neighbors to join them on 24th Street on Oct. 27. "You won't be alone," says Setian.

If you'd like more information about the Noe Valley march, send an e-mail to noevalleyantiwar@sbcglobal.net or go to www.oct27sf.org.



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Bevan Dufty: Our Warrior at City Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to see her [while driving] were all taken. I mean, they cleaned me out. I felt that I was experiencing what a lot of people in my district have experienced over the past couple of years. There's just been an increase in car theft and burglary and robbery.

Voice: How's your new house?

Dufty: I would say that I've gone through a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am not the handiest person, so the notion that I could lead a stripping-down of two units and a rebuild of them is something I never saw myself doing. I love the house.

Voice: Have you picked up any new handyman skills along the way?

Dufty: No. But I have gotten a boyfriend who's handy. Tom Gray. He is amazing.

Voice: You've been a dad for a year now. How's fatherhood?

Dufty: The mantra is, it gets better. For the first nine months, I bought into that. It did get better. I have to say that in the past week, my insecurities have risen to the fore, because Sidney is as strong-willed as she has ever been. She is not like the little beanie baby that I carried around the neighborhood to meetings. She doesn't want to sit on my lap. She wants to be entertained. She wants to walk. She wants to do what she wants to do.

Every time I get to a place where I think I've kind of mastered that phase, I get to a new phase that I am absolutely unprepared for.

But this is the best year of my life. You know, at 52, to say that I've had the most amazing year of my life in terms of having a child and making this family with Rebecca and being reelected, which gives me the chance to do this job that I love, and to find a boyfriend after being miserably single for four years, all I can ask for is a year where I would do as well.

Voice: Since being reelected last year, what civic accomplishments are you most proud of?

Dufty: A lot of my work has been around the city budget. That's where I feel some of my best efforts have been. They're not blue-ribbon pieces of legislation as such, but they're just a lot of nuts and bolts things that I've been able to effectuate through the budget process, whether it's getting Noe Courts funded or getting funding for traffic-calming on 21st Street.

I feel really proud that San Francisco has pulled together and found consensus to create the Healthy San Francisco program [the city's plan to provide health care for all its residents]. I was kind of a key catalyst in that at a time when the legislation was at a point where we wondered, are we going to have a huge fight? Is the mayor going to veto this? And I just kind of made my move. Like, oh no, we're going to do this.

Voice: What is the biggest challenge facing you this year?

Dufty: One of my biggest goals is chairing the school district committee. I think there's been public sentiment at times that there's been a lot of divisiveness on the board of education and that the focus hasn't been on the children but on the political issues that tend to polarize the board. I am not on the board, but I am trying to work in partnership with them so that the city is best delivering our services to ensure success by these schools.

Most recently, the school board came together in hiring a superintendent and there wasn't the leaking of the names and the fighting. There was a consensus in terms of hiring Carlos Garcia. I have

pulled close to him and am working on a number of different issues in which the city needs to work with the school district. These include the arts, and that brings up the bigger issue of Prop. H, where the city is providing resources to the school district. Under Prop. H, there were a couple of my colleagues pushing to get credit for almost virtually anything. You know, like, if I dropped a paper clip at Everett Middle School, do we get a penny credit under Prop. H? [Prop. H, approved in March 2004, set up the Public Education Enrichment Fund, which brings additional money and in-kind services to the San Francisco Unified School District.]

The parents really fought back and said hey, wait a minute, Prop. H wasn't designed for the city to have this feel-good process and say this is everything we're providing to you. I was really clear from the beginning: Hey, wait a minute, this isn't a budget-balancing exercise. This is a recognition from the city that quality public schools are one of the most important components of a vibrant city.

"Halloween on 24th Street is the only solace that I have. As much as everyone perceives Halloween as kind of a gay holiday, for me it is kind of an unending nightmare. I dream about it probably three or four times a week. I dream for rain and cold weather."

Voice: How are you addressing crime in District 8?

Dufty: I maintain a very close daily conversation with Captain John Goldberg [of Mission Station] and our new captain, Denis O'Leary, at Ingleside about public safety issues in Noe Valley. By the way, everything south of 26th Street is Ingleside's [jurisdiction]. I've been involved in organizing several block watches through the San Francisco Safety Awareness for Everyone (S.A.F.E.) program.

At City Hall, I've spent a lot of time looking at the cogs in the public-safety machine, especially adult probation. I authored two supplemental appropriations that added needed staff in both adult and juvenile probation. You can't incarcerate your way to public safety. I don't think our probation departments have been adequately staffed. I call them stepchildren departments. As of a few months ago, we couldn't even tell you how many people were being supervised under adult probation. It was that bad.

Voice: Speaking of cogs, are we any closer to resolving the Real Food saga?

Dufty: I called [Nutraceutical Corporation, which has kept the Real Food building on 24th Street vacant for four years] this week in anticipation of talking to you. It's confounding. I am genuinely trying. It's one of the five nagging issues, something like Halloween for example, that are sort of misery-inducing for me. I want to try and improve the situation, and I just don't know what to do.

Eminent domain is just not going to be declared on a commercial business that is being swept and maintained at some adequate level. It's a blight on the neighborhood, but it is not a blight in the technical sense of the term. That would give us the leverage to do something. It's hard for people to understand. It's been really very damaging to the neighborhood in many ways, and I wish I could say that by date X this is going to change. But the reality is that from the time they start with a proposal, it will be two years until the market opens.

I said to them, clearly we're going to need to have a community process, but you should go ahead and submit planning

proposals because it takes at least six months to get those heard, and let's just get going on this.

Voice: Have they done that?

Dufty: They have submitted an environmental proposal to demolish the building and replace it with a two-story mixed-use commercial and residential space. I have suggested to them that they could hire someone to do the community facilitation and represent them. I don't know if they're going to do that.

Voice: You mentioned Halloween. What is going to happen on Oct. 31 this year?

Dufty: I'm definitely planning to be on 24th Street. Halloween on 24th Street is the only solace that I have.

As much as everyone perceives Halloween as kind of a gay holiday, for me it is kind of an unending nightmare. I dream about it probably three or four times a week. I dream for rain and cold weather.

It's an event that has devolved to be out of control no matter how many police we have [patrolling the Castro District].

I am working diligently with the mayor and city departments to put a plan in place to ratchet it down this year. There was a plan to create an alternative entertainment event, but the private promoter became very sick. We lost her and then we had no backup.

[At press time, the city had not publicly announced a plan for Halloween 2007, though one is reportedly expected in early October. Currently, the official stance is that there is no plan for Halloween 2007.]

Voice: On a lighter note, what are you and your family going to be?

Dufty: We talked about being Teletubbies. Rebecca thought, given the gay context around the Teletubbies in the past that we might just honor the late Jerry Falwell and be Teletubbies.

Voice: Okay, we're dying to know. What really happened between you and Supervisor Chris Daly in July? Did you almost come to blows?

Dufty: I didn't do it to grandstand. I really had had enough. I felt kind of complicit when he made the insinuation about [Mayor Newsom and] cocaine use. That day, the chambers were packed, and people thundered and applauded [Daly], and I was disgusted at the time. I was mad at myself for not saying something then,

that that was wrong. I sat there and said to myself, I cannot believe he is saying this.

[Later] we go to this hearing where first Chris trashes the board president. Then he goes on another tirade against the mayor—this is after the drug allegation insinuation thing—and then he walked out of the hearing because he was having a temper fit.

Later that night, [Daly] presented this half-baked affordable housing plan that the voters would never pass but which would allow him to say he tried to do something, and I just stood up and said, you know, this isn't going to work. The mayor doesn't support it, and he's supported by 70 percent of the people in the city. You're going to have to figure out a way to work with him, and you know what? For all this self-styling that you do, saying that you're the only person with the courage to stand up to [Newsom], you've done more to reelect him than anybody in this chamber.

[Daly] came over and said some things to me. And I just kind of had had enough. I told him, you haven't talked to me in five weeks, so take your *blank* back to your chair. I have no interest in anything you have to say. I used to get beaten up all the time by this bully in the third grade, and I just kind of snapped. I said, you're just like that bully in the third grade, and I am not intimidated by you. I said, you know all you really want to do is punch me in the face. I'm not going to even get up from my chair. Just punch me. Just go ahead.

He was blowing up, and two of my colleagues were pushing him back. Michela [Alioto-Pier] is sitting next to me doing an in-memoriam. Aaron [Peskin] shouts, show some respect for the dead! That's the last thing I remember. And it was a rumble. And that was, in fact, the last time Supervisor Daly has spoken to me.

The morning after the paper reported it, I went to Gold's Gym. It was if I was a Roman warrior returning from battle. My gay guys at the gym were all, like, done with Chris [Daly] and done with the lack of civility and the anger and the rancor that at times characterizes how he plays in this political sandbox. It was an amazing experience for me to see how turned off people were to the way he conducted his business. ■

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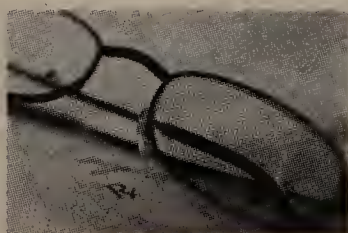
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Alvarado Under Improvement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents and supported by several foundation grants, have received wide attention over the years.

Why then did this school—with a solid reputation for excellence—find itself this year on the “needing improvement” list, under criteria established by the federal government’s No Child Left Behind Act?

Principal Robert Broecker, brand new to his job in 2007 (though a teacher at Alvarado for several years before that), insists that Alvarado is a “thriving, successful school,” and that the No Child Left Behind law does not adequately measure those successes. Even the state of California, Broecker points out, recognizes Alvarado as a school of distinction, on the basis of its having surpassed the magical 800 mark on the state’s Academic Performance Index (API) two years in a row.

No Child Left Behind, passed by Congress in 2001, relies on annual California Standards Tests to measure success. Alvarado succeeded in 22 out of 23 areas, but because the school’s English learners did not achieve “Adequate Yearly Progress” on the English Language Arts test for two years in a row, Broecker and his teachers are now under Program Improvement requirements. They have two years to improve their scores. If that does not happen, the school district will impose additional requirements each year that could ultimately lead to the restructuring or even closing of the school.

To some extent, the school’s immersion program itself may contribute to the problem, Broecker says. The school’s philosophy is that students learn acade-

mic subjects best in their primary language. Once they know the basics of a subject, it is relatively easy for students to later translate those concepts into English.

Beginning with kindergarten, Alvarado offers parallel classes in both English and Spanish. In the Spanish-immersion program, 80 to 90 percent of the kindergarten instruction is in Spanish. This percentage decreases each year, so that by the third, fourth, and fifth grades, only about 50 percent of instruction is in Spanish. However, the achievement tests that NCLB requires these third- through fifth-graders to take are all in English.

No one seems to question the underlying principles of No Child Left Behind. They agree that high expectations and accountability can improve students’ performance. The challenge, Broecker says, is to find a way to do well enough on the tests so that the school can keep teaching in the way it thinks is best. Right now, there is a mismatch between the way Alvarado teaches and the way in which its students are tested.

PTA President Gabriela Tinoco says that a few concerned parents of English learners have questioned the wisdom of enrolling their children in the Spanish-immersion program rather than in English-only classes. Tinoco, herself, however, whose first-grade son Nick is in the immersion program, is convinced of the program’s worthiness. Nick, she believes, is getting an “excellent” education.

Tim Danison, chairman of the school’s Site Council, which consists of the principal, faculty members, and community representatives, has three children currently enrolled (and in the immersion program) and one who has recently graduated. Like the other parents, he is a strong supporter of Alvarado and its “dedicated staff.” And like most, he sup-

ports the NCLB concept of getting all students to perform at grade level. Yet, the way the program is implemented, he says, “tends to penalize schools that otherwise serve minority students well.”

To meet the challenge, Broecker, his faculty, and many parents are embarking on a series of measures to ensure that no child is left behind and that the school’s language-immersion program will result in children proficient in both English and Spanish.

The first step will be to identify students who need extra help with English, based on their test scores. To provide this extra help, teachers are being trained in ways to improve the delivery of English language development during the day. Additionally, Broecker, working with the Site Council, is setting up after-school programs to provide writers’ workshops to boost literacy skills.

Parents are an integral part of Program Improvement, the principal says. Todd David and others are actively recruiting parents to mentor students in the after-school program, called ExCel. Some volunteers will work for 60 to 90 minutes one afternoon a week to help students increase English and math scores. Others will provide child care for parents who want to participate in the mentoring program. Alvarado will also hold Family Learning Nights, where teachers will help parents understand ways in which they can extend the school curriculum to their homes.

Parents do have the opportunity to transfer their children to another school, but Broecker does not know a single parent contemplating such a move.

And the students? Largely unaware of the issues of NCLB, they are having fun learning. Just ask them! ■

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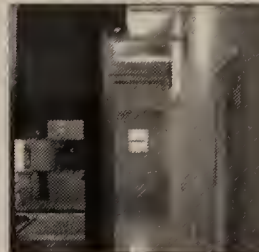
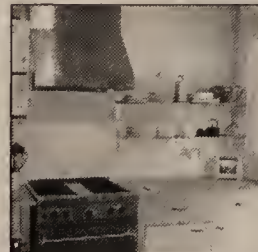
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Rent or Buy, The Price Is High

By Corrie M. Anders

Apartment rents in Noe Valley, which have never been cheap, have gotten even pricier. But that hasn't stopped apartment hunters from snapping them up—sometimes before the old tenant moves out.

In September, shoppers for two-bedroom units were confronted with prices averaging nearly \$3,000 a month, according to postings on Craigslist, the on-line classified ad site. The typical rent that landlords asked for a one-bedroom unit in Noe Valley was a little under \$2,000 a month. Those Craigslist prices for the two most popular-sized apartments were 5 to 8 percent higher than in September of 2006. But local property managers say rents have risen as much as 10 percent in the past 12 months. Still, J.J. Panzer, a broker and property manager with Real Management Company on Castro Street, says he's "seeing a lot of competition for apartments in Noe Valley."

One sign of how competitive the rental market has become is the neighborhood's low vacancy rate.

"I'm not seeing a lot of turnover. I'm not having a lot of tenants stay for a year and leave. People are sticking around," Panzer says. When a tenant does give notice to vacate an apartment, "I frequently rent them before they're empty."

After declining in the wake of the dot-com bust of 2000–01, Noe Valley rents began rising again 2½ years ago.

The current demand for Noe Valley rentals has been fueled by two factors: a surge in the Bay Area economy in recent months, especially in the high-tech arena, and this summer's mortgage crisis, which has impinged on homebuying.

Noe Valley is a draw for many well-paid high-tech workers, in part because of the neighborhood's easy freeway access to Silicon Valley job centers. "They come into my office with a list of the Google 'limo stops,'" says Panzer, referring to the free shuttle service that the Mountain View company offers from 24th and Castro streets and several other locations in San Francisco.

But the mortgage crisis that first affected less-creditworthy homebuyers has also made it more difficult—and more expensive—for consumers to obtain mortgage loans. "So people say, 'I'm just going to rent for a while,'" notes Panzer.

That said, 11 single-family homes in Noe Valley were sold in August, according to statistics provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate. The total compared with 10 sales in July, but was down from 15 a year earlier. Buyers typically paid 5 percent more than the seller's asking price—a premium that helped boost the average sales price to \$1.7 million.

The most expensive property sold during the month was a four-bedroom, 3½-bath home in the 800 block of Alvarado Street between Douglass Street and Hoffman Avenue. It went for \$2.7 million, slightly more than the asking price.

Condominium activity also remained steady. Condo shoppers purchased nine units in August, one less than in July and three fewer than in August a year ago.

Condo bragging rights went to a three-bedroom, three-bath unit with 2,347 square feet, in the 4700 block of 25th Street between Fountain Street and Grand View Avenue. The price was just under \$1.5 million.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
August 2007	11	\$850,000	\$2,700,000	\$1,692,273	35	105%
July 2007	10	\$1,037,000	\$2,300,000	\$1,497,800	13	119%
August 2006	15	\$657,000	\$2,800,000	\$1,597,000	40	102%
Condominiums						
August 2007	9	\$790,000	\$1,465,000	\$1,157,778	28	106%
July 2007	10	\$457,000	\$1,910,000	\$1,198,305	20	109%
August 2006	12	\$635,000	\$1,200,000	\$866,258	44	103%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
August 2007	6	\$950,000	\$1,989,000	\$1,348,908	58	101%
July 2007	7	\$1,100,000	\$1,765,000	\$1,389,571	76	101%
August 2006	7	\$865,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,401,143	52	105%
5+-unit buildings						
August 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2006	1	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	84	97%

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data. NOV 10/07

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents September 2007	Average September 2007	Average September 2006
Studio	2	\$1,300 – \$1,450	\$1,375 / mo.	\$1,396 / mo.
1-bedroom	17	\$ 995 – \$2,500	\$1,901 / mo.	\$1,756 / mo.
2-bedroom	27	\$2,150 – \$4,299	\$2,972 / mo.	\$2,804 / mo.
3-bedroom	9	\$3,350 – \$4,800	\$4,078 / mo.	\$3,830 / mo.
4+-bedroom	0	—	—	\$5,533 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 55 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Aug. 27 to Sept. 14, 2007. NOV 10/07



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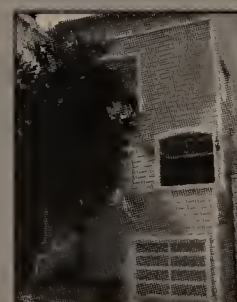


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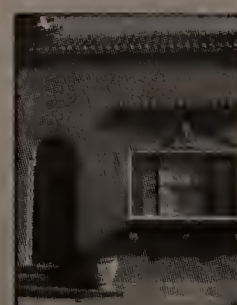


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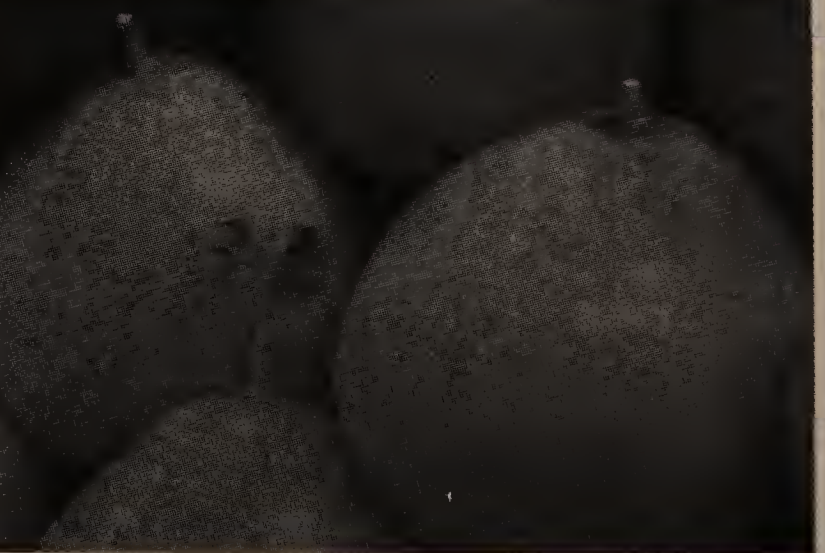


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CRIME BEAT

By Officer Jane Warner
San Francisco Patrol Special Police

The following crime summaries, from the first few weeks of September, were culled from reports filed at Mission Police Station.

Vandalism: 4000 block of 25th Street, 9-7-07, 12:38 a.m.

Police responded to a report of a group of people breaking windows. When they arrived, they met with a woman who told them the suspects had fled in an unknown model car. Upset, the resident told officers she was asleep in her bed when she heard people outside the front of her house yelling for "Maria" and ringing her doorbell. The woman turned on the lights, went downstairs, and shouted out to the group through a closed front door that no one resided there by that name. The woman could hear the suspects talking, and one of them told another, "Use the bat to break the door in." Fearing for her life, the woman grabbed a hammer for protection and peeked out the curtains. The woman told officers she saw five young Hispanic women and one Hispanic male, all in their early 20s. One of the women had a baseball bat and swung at her window, shattering the glass. The group ran down the street, got into their car, and fled westbound on 25th Street. Officers searched the area, but could not find them.

Robbery with Force: 22nd and Grand View, 9-9-07, 3:06 a.m.

While visiting from out of town, a man was walking back to his friend's apartment early in the morning when he was suddenly grabbed around the neck from behind. "Give me your wallet," the suspect whispered in his ear. "I don't have a wallet," the victim replied. "Well then, give me what you do have." Afraid for his life, the victim took his \$100 Sony Ericsson cell phone from his front pocket and held it behind his head. The suspect, described as a young male about five-foot-five, wearing a tan hooded jacket, grabbed the phone away from the victim and fled on foot southbound on Grand View Avenue. The victim, who was not hurt, returned to his friend's house and reported the incident to 911.

Robbery with Force: 100 block of Liberty, 9-17-07, 8:35 p.m.

A woman was walking westbound on Liberty

New Face on the Police Beat

This month's Crime Beat (formerly Police Beat) has a different look from past police columns in the *Noe Valley Voice*. Officer Jane Warner of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police has submitted a crime log of recent incidents in Noe Valley, which she compiled from Mission Police Station reports. In future issues, she hopes to include reports from Ingleside Station, covering the southern half of Noe Valley.

You may know Warner from her afternoon patrols of 24th Street. Last December, she and another Patrol Special officer, Brian Wong, began walking a regular beat several days a week. They also walk a beat in the Castro District.

So what is the Patrol Special Police? "The Patrol Special Police was the original police force during the Gold Rush," explains Warner, who is current president of the 160-year-old law enforcement association. "Our grandfathers—maybe some grandmothers as well—formed what was called the Vigilance Committee, comprised mainly of merchants protecting their business interests. Because the town boomed overnight, there were no city services in place. There was literally chaos in the streets, with no protection. Our group was formed; soon after [came] the regular police department."

Today, the Patrol Special Police remains a private group, but its members are appointed by the San Francisco Police Commission and supervised by the Police Department. Officers are trained at the Police Academy, carry guns and police radios, and undergo background checks. "We have similar powers to the regular police, only we're not funded by the taxpayers but rather the private sector," says Warner. In Noe Valley, merchants pay \$50 a month for the foot patrol service.

A former police officer in Honolulu and Marin County, Warner has been working with the Patrol Special Police for 15 years. She also writes a "Crime and Punishment" column for the weekly *Bay Area Reporter*. She has been a resident of the Miraloma Park neighborhood for the past decade. For information about the Patrol Specials, go to sfpatrolspecpolice.com. To talk to Warner directly, call 559-9955.

If you have a police emergency, call 911.

—Sally Smith, Editor

Street carrying a small backpack and a laptop computer in a computer bag when a black two-door sports car pulled up alongside her. Two men exited the vehicle and started looking up and down the street. Thinking they were waiting for someone, the woman kept walking. Suddenly she heard footsteps behind her. Turning, the woman saw that it was the men from the sports car. "Give me your bags," one of the suspects demanded as he pulled at the strap of her computer bag around her shoulder. "Let go!" Fearing for her safety, the woman threw her bags at the suspects and began to run in the opposite direction. The robbers picked up the two bags, got back in their car, and fled southbound on Guerrero Street. Unhurt during the ordeal, the woman went home and notified police. Police returned to the area and searched for the men and the car, but were unsuccessful. The suspects were described as Hispanic males in their late teens, dressed in black baggy clothing. Taken during the robbery was a white Macintosh iBook laptop valued at \$1,500, a brown laptop bag, a

silver Verizon cell phone, an Apple iPod, a red wallet with a large "K" printed on the back, a green backpack, numerous credit and identification cards, and about \$20 in \$1 bills.

Residential Burglary: 200 block of Eureka, 9-17-07, 8 p.m.

A resident received a phone call at work from his neighbor informing him the front door to his house was wide open. The resident rushed home and found his front door had been forced open, leaving the door frame splintered and bits of wood lying about the floor. Fearing someone might still be on the premises, the resident slowly entered his house. After a walk-through was completed, the resident found the suspect was no longer there, nor were several of his belongings. Two Macintosh laptops, an Apple iPod Nano, an Olympus digital camera, and the resident's passport were all missing, with an estimated total loss of more than \$5,000. Police responded to the man's house and took a report.

Theft from Building: 1100 block of Church, 9-17-07, 4:33 p.m.

While at work, a woman left her desk and went to the rear of her office. As she gathered paperwork, she looked down the hallway and saw a strange man crawling on the floor near her workstation. "Hey!" the woman shouted, "who are you?" Without saying anything, the suspect stood up and ran out the door. The woman ran after the intruder, described as an African American male, about 40 years old, wearing a black and blue suit, and saw him get into a dark four-door Volvo driven by another African American male. The getaway car fled at a high rate of speed northbound on Church Street. The woman returned to her desk and discovered her wallet containing about \$40, several credit and ID cards, and a Bank of America checkbook, was missing.

Officer Jane Warner of the SFPSP walks a regular beat on 24th Street. You may e-mail her at sfpatal@earthlink.net or call 559-9955.

How to Contact the San Francisco Police Department

Noe Valley falls within the jurisdiction of two San Francisco police districts, Mission and Ingleside. Mission Police cover the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside Police the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue.

To speak to an officer at Mission Station, call 558-5400 or e-mail SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The station's tip line for anonymous reporting of drug or gang activity is 575-4444.

To contact Ingleside police, call 404-4000 or e-mail SFPDIglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984. For citywide online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/site/police.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. If it's a non-emergency, call 415-553-0123.

How Prepared Are You?

By Lt. Tim Oberzeir of Mission Station, SFPD

This October 17 will mark the 18th anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. For those who remember, the earthquake struck at 5:04 p.m., lasted approximately 15 seconds, and measured 7.1 on the Richter scale. The quake killed 62 people throughout California; 3,757 persons were reported injured, and more than 12,000 were left homeless.

While earthquakes are always a concern of residents in California, fires, severe storms, power outages, and acts of terrorism are other emergencies that we may encounter. Planning and preparation for events such as these is recommended by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) and the American Red Cross.

One simple way to prepare is to assemble a basic necessity kit that will allow you and your family to become self-sufficient for at least 72 hours after a catastrophic event. Water, food, first-aid/medical supplies, and blankets are among the recommended items that most persons would need.

A full list of necessary supplies, family emergency plans, and more information are available at the following sites: FEMA, American Red Cross, and the State Office of Emergency Services.

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The seminar is held the first and third Saturday of every month from 10:00 am - noon and now the second and fourth Wednesday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. The seminars are held at Zephyr's Noe Valley office located at 4040 24th Street between Castro and Noe. For more information call 415-695-8805 x 281 or just drop in.



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SHORT TAKES

Toe-Tapping Fundraiser for Senior Center

The On Lok 30th Street Senior Center is holding its annual "Autumn Magic" dinner-dance fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. The evening, which will take place at El Patio Español, 2850 Alemany Boulevard, includes dinner, dancing, a raffle, and a chance to support the 4,500 seniors who receive services at the center at 225 30th Street.

For the three-course dinner, guests will have a choice of steak, salmon, or a vegetarian entrée, says development officer Dave Baker. He notes that the raffle features some hot items, such as two round-trip airline tickets and a weekend away. DeeJay Wild Nights will spin mostly Latin tunes, while dancers show off their dance technique and give salsa lessons.

Tickets are \$65 per person. Baker says the event usually raises about \$15,000, and attendance numbers around 250 people. Funds raised will benefit the senior center's health and social programs, classes, meals, and other services. To order tickets or for more information, call the 30th Street Senior Center at 550-2223.

Tails Wag at Dogtoberfest

Pooches will be panting to attend Dogtoberfest, a fundraiser organized by Friends of Upper Douglass Park to raise money for park improvements. The fest is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Upper Douglass dog park, 27th and Douglass streets.

Organizers say they're planning all sorts of fun, including a pet costume contest,

agility course, pooch portraits, and plenty of treats. Participants can register for a drawing to win theater tickets, a new dog bed, a pet travel kit, and a variety of gift certificates from local businesses. Raffle tickets are \$3 each, or less if you buy in bulk. The event needs more volunteers, so visit the group's web site at www.fudlp.org for more information.

Electoral College Up for a Vote?

You can find out about a proposal to split up California's electoral college votes at the next meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. The proposed ballot measure, called the "Presidential Election Reform Act," would do away with the custom of awarding all of California's 55 electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote. Instead, two electoral votes would go to the statewide winner, and the rest would be awarded to whoever won in each of 53 state congressional districts. The (mostly Republican) drafters of the law are currently collecting signatures to place it on the June ballot. If passed, it would take effect in the November 2008 presidential election.

To shed more light on the subject, the Democratic Club has invited Scott Wiener, chairman of the San Francisco Democratic Party, and Christopher Waldrep, an American history professor at San Francisco State University, to speak at its Wednesday, Oct. 17, meeting, which starts at 7:30 p.m. The free event will take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street between 23rd and Elizabeth streets, and is open to the public.

Board Changes at Friends

The Friends of Noe Valley will elect board members for 2008 at its October community meeting, says the group's current president, Richard May. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of the

Google commuter buses operating in the neighborhood. In addition, May says developer Brian Maloney will be on hand to answer questions about plans for the condos in the former Lunny House on 24th Street across from Bell Market.

All are invited to attend the meeting, which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at St. Philip's church hall on Diamond Street between 24th and Elizabeth streets. For information, e-mail May at rambooks@pacbell.net.

Noe Valley Chamber Music, Round 15

A new season of eight Noe Valley Chamber Music concerts begins this month, marking the 15th anniversary of the series. On Sunday, Oct. 14, at 4 p.m., the Tilden Trio—comprised of a violinist, cellist, and pianist—will perform music from the Romantic era, including a Beethoven trio and pieces by Arensky and Ravel. They'll also perform a new piece, *Tilden Park*, which was composed by the group's violinist, Sam Oliver.

Oliver is the first violin of the San Francisco Symphony. He graduated from

the Juilliard School, as did the trio's multiple award-winning pianist, June Choi Oh. The trio's cellist, Peter Wyrick, is the associate principal cellist in the San Francisco Symphony.

The Noe Valley Chamber Music concerts are held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street near Elizabeth Street. General admission to the concert is \$18, or \$15 for students and seniors. For tickets and information on other concerts in the series, call 648-5236 or visit www.nvcm.org.

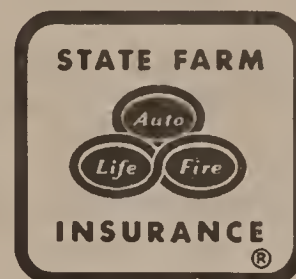
Guests Arrive on Odd Mondays

With three odd-numbered Mondays in October, the Odd Mondays event series at the Noe Valley Ministry is chock full this month. On Monday, Oct. 1, author and musician Alicia Bay Laurel will read from the new edition of her 1970 book *Living on the Earth*. Writer Alexandra Endres, whose novel *Bride Island* was recently published, will read on Monday, Oct. 15. On Monday, Oct. 29, the series hosts Sardinian composer and pianist

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Luciano Chessa and Nigerian-born poet Uchechi Kalu. All events begin at 7 p.m.

To join the organizers beforehand for a no-host dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Noe Valley Pizza (24th and Sanchez streets), e-mail jlsender@webtv.net. For more information about the Odd Mondays series, visit www.oddmondays.com.

NERT Drill and New Training

A drill for all Neighborhood Emergency Response Team members in Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. until noon. San Francisco's NERT program teaches potentially life-saving skills, such as shutting off utilities, providing first aid, and conducting light search-and-rescue, which are useful in the

event of an earthquake or other disaster.

The October drill will focus on "setting up a staging area and [practicing] 'earthquake eyes'—looking around the neighborhood for hazards and resources," says co-organizer Jennifer Mayer. The drill will be held at Holly Park, located on Elsie Street at Holly Park Circle.

Members of the public are welcome to observe as well as register for the next free NERT training, which will be held on two Saturdays beginning Nov. 10, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Kevin's Church Hall, 704 Cortland Avenue near Anderson. Sign up at www.sfgov.org/sffdnert or call 970-2024.

Precita Eyes Turns 30

Precita Eyes, the nonprofit mural arts center that has supported more than 400 murals in San Francisco, celebrates its 30th birthday this month with a gala event to raise \$50,000. Precita Eyes' fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Project Artaud, 499 Alabama Street near 17th Street.

Mayor Gavin Newsom will attend as the event's honorary co-chair, and 30 of

San Francisco's master muralists will donate prize art for a silent auction. The benefit is open to the public, and tickets are \$30. To reserve yours, call 285-2287 or e-mail pem@precitaeyes.org. For more information about the organization, visit www.precitaeyes.org.

Music Series Gets Creative

Innovative jazz will be filling the upper sanctuary of the Noe Valley Ministry this month and next at the Noe Valley Music Series.

On Saturday, Oct. 6, clarinetist Ben Goldberg, bassist Devin Hoff, and drummer Scott Amendola will celebrate the release of their new CD, *Plays Monk*, with an homage to 20th-century jazz icon Thelonious Monk.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, Oct. 20, two trios—Kihnoua and TIPS—will perform music that will take you from America to Asia to France and back again.

Kihnoua features Korean vocalist/performance artist Dohee Lee, saxophonist Larry Ochs (of the ROVA Saxophone Quartet), and percussionist Scott Amendola, playing sounds that combine contemporary jazz improvisation with traditional music from Asia. Soprano sax king Bruce Ackley (also of ROVA), Philip Greenleaf on alto sax, and vocalist Aurora Josephson form the TIPS trio, and their part of the show will be highlighted by a piece written by jazz great Steve Lacy that uses French text from the notebooks of the cubist artist Georges Braque.

Once you've been transported by those concerts, you might want to get tickets for Ivá Bittová. The Czech avant-garde violinist and singer, who also played the role of Zena in the 2003 Holocaust film *Zelary*, performs at the Music Series Nov. 3. She'll play her own compositions and will bring along some special guests.

Tickets for the October concerts are

\$16 in advance (available at Streetlight Records on 24th Street); \$18 at the door. (They're \$18 and \$20 for Bittová.) Shows start at 8:15 p.m.; doors open at the church at 1021 Sanchez Street at 7:45 p.m. For more information, call 454-5238 or go to www.noevalleymusic.com.

Glen Park Branch Unveiled

A grand celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13, to mark the re-opening of the Glen Park Branch Library, which now has six times the space it had at the old location. The new branch is at 2825 Diamond Street near Chenery and is part of the new Glen Park Marketplace, a multi-use building that includes housing and an organic grocery (Canyon Market).

The celebration kicks off at 1 p.m. with lion dancers, musicians, kids' entertainment, and a fair on Diamond Street, which will be closed to traffic. Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, City Librarian Luis Herrera, and members of the community will open the doors.

Library services begin at 2 p.m. in the 8,500-square-foot space, which includes special areas for children and teens, 40 percent more materials, new computers, and wireless Internet access. The Glen Park branch is the fifth to be renovated under the Branch Library Improvement Program, funded by a bond measure passed in 2000. For more information, call 557-4277 or visit www.sfpl.org.

The Voice Short Takes are compiled and written by Erin O'Briant.



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Change is on the way! Learn about plans to improve Muni service

Over the past year, the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) has been looking at ways to make Muni more efficient and attractive to riders.

Please attend an upcoming community meeting to learn about the TEP's key findings and ideas and help us shape the City's plans to improve Muni service. We will present the same information at each meeting. In early 2008, we will host another series of meetings to present final recommendations.

Transit Effectiveness Project Community Meetings

Excelsior District

Saturday, October 20
10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Monroe Elementary School,
260 Madrid St. at Excelsior Ave.

The nearest MUNI bus lines are
14, 29, 49 and 52.

Inner Sunset

Monday, October 22
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers)
near entrance to SF Botanical Garden,
9th Ave. at Lincoln Way

The nearest MUNI lines are N-Judah,
6, 43, 44, 66 and 71.

Mission District

Saturday, October 20
3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

St. Peter's Catholic Church
1200 Florida St. at 24th St.

The nearest MUNI bus lines are
9, 27 and 48.

Civic Center

Tuesday, October 23
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
99 Grove St. at Polk St.

The nearest BART and MUNI station is
Civic Center. The nearest MUNI bus
lines are 9, 19, 21 and 49.

For more information, visit our web site: www.sftep.com, e-mail us at info@sftep.com, or call (415) 701-4599. Spanish and Chinese speakers may call (415) 226-1313.



Wheelchair Accessible

Please call (415) 226-1313 at least 72 hours before the meeting if you need any special accommodations, such as American Sign Language interpreters or materials in alternate formats.



Transit Effectiveness Project

SFMTA

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* column profiling new shops and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we feature a jewelry designer who recently became a mother, and a family-owned and operated locksmith business.

UNCIVILIZED ELEGANCE

BY MABEL CHONG

1311 Church Street at 25th Street

415-550-1665

www.mabelchong.com

A lot of new things have recently come into jewelry designer Mabel Chong's life. Not only did Chong welcome her first-born, Claire Marie Moon Welte, into the world on Sept. 1, but her designs also recently landed a coveted spot in the Bettina Duncan boutique at Fred Segal, a Santa Monica mecca for cutting-edge fashion. But most importantly for those of us in Noe Valley, Chong chose the neighborhood as the location for her first retail boutique, *Uncivilized Elegance*.

"What's great about being a designer here is the local people. They really support local designers, especially in Noe Valley. Girls come in, and they always say, 'We like to help local designers,'" Chong says.

But Chong and husband Mark Welte, an advertising executive, had other reasons for wanting to open up shop here. Before moving to London for a year in 2003, the couple lived on Dolores Street, just one block from where their shop is



Mabel Chong displays her signature designs in a newly remodeled boutique on Church Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

now. Since their return to San Francisco in 2004, Chong and Welte have lived in the Inner Richmond, but miss their old stomping grounds.

In preparation for the store's opening on Aug. 15, the couple transformed the space—the former Artery studio, on Church Street near 25th—into a retail boutique and studio workspace, separated by sheer white curtains. Walls of textured white plaster contrast with a tiled floor painted a glossy rust hue, while a leopard-print rug, vintage furnishings, and dress forms laden with Chong's jewelry serve as decoration.

"We wanted to go somewhere in between Mediterranean and Mission styles," says Welte, who plans to hang a chandelier and wall panels in the boutique soon.

Inspired by the colors in nature and the beauty of seemingly incongruent pieces that work when put together, Chong's delicate jewelry (\$65 to \$1,000) sparkles with semi-precious stones, pearls, sterling silver, and gold. With the help of her partner Lili Wu, Chong assembles necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings from thousands of carefully selected stones and one-of-a-kind objects such as paper-thin leaves dipped in copper. She never uses glass or crystal, but instead combs gem shows for favorite varieties like London and Swiss topaz.

"I really love high-quality, sparkling natural stones. I spend lots of time and money on stones. Basically, I'm a stone freak," she says.

While the shop is stocked with Chong's latest collections, she also creates custom pieces, often designing wedding jewelry for brides and bridesmaids. When crafting a new design, she tries to tap her wildest passions, she says. "Each of us acts upon our uncivilized essence to create something of beauty."

Before striking out on her own several years ago, Chong spent four years working for a major pearl wholesaler. During her stint with the company, she frequented trade shows packed with jewelry designers. When she decided to start her own line, she put her past experience to good use. "She had her first taste of commercial success at the Alemany Flea Market. Then a year later, she was doing trade shows all over the country," says Welte with obvious pride.

With baby Claire Marie new to their household, the family kept the boutique open only on weekends in September, but Chong returns to her regular hours this month. An opening event is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 1, 2007. Check the web site or stop by the boutique for more details.

Uncivilized Elegance by Mabel Chong is open from noon to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, and by appointment.

LOCKSMITH CENTRAL

3977 24th Street at Noe Street

415-665-KEY8 (5398)

www.locksmithcentral.net

If you need to pick a lock (for legitimate reasons, of course), Michael Young is your man. The owner of Locksmith Central, which relocated to 24th Street from the Sunset in late July, is an expert locksmith. He even won first place in a lock-picking contest held in San Francisco several years ago. But don't expect him to reveal the tricks of the trade.

"It just takes constant practice. Unfortunately; we can't tell members of the public how to pick locks," says Young, who has operated his company for the last decade and been a professional locksmith for 18 years.

Young and brothers Peter and James, who work with him, are eager to let potential customers know that they are new to the block of 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe.

"I want everybody to know that we had nothing to do with Ames," Young says of the locksmith company that formerly occupied the storefront. According to Young, that company was evicted by the building's landlord, who then contacted Young and offered him the space.

The new location is a welcome change for Young, he says. Not only was foot traffic slow in the former location at the corner of Judah and 34th streets, but Young already counted many Noe Valley residents among his clients, including the staff of Real Management Company on Castro Street.

Young and his brothers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist with residential and vehicular lockouts. It usually takes about a half-hour for Young and his crew to arrive for emergency calls, and he says 99 percent of his customers end up paying the same fee he quotes them over the phone. Fees for unlocking a car or home lock are generally in the \$85 to \$95 range. Inside the shop, costs for cutting a simple key start at \$2. The shop carries keys, lock parts, and products from Schlage, Baldwin, and Marks brands, among others.

Locksmith Central also specializes in lock changes and repairs, even on old models that are no longer manufactured. Young says he regularly attends swap meets and flea markets looking for old locks and



At his Locksmith Central on 24th Street, owner Michael Young (at counter) shares key secrets with his brother Peter Young.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

lock parts to add to his inventory.

"I have a lot of locks that were common 20 years ago but are no longer made," he says.

In the shop, customers can get keys copied for almost any model of car, though Young does concede that there are a small number of digital locks on luxury vehicles for which he has not yet "cracked the code."

While you're most likely to catch Young zipping around town in his service vehicle helping clients get back into their homes and cars, he says he'll never consider becoming an entirely mobile business.

"I don't want to be another mobile locksmith. They cash your check, and you can't find them again. I like to have a shop so my clients feel comfortable, so they feel like they can find me," he says.

Lastly, if you think your lockout situation is embarrassing or bizarre, fear not. Fighting roommates, lost purses, those with sudden bouts of short-term memory loss—Young has seen it all.

"You name it, we've basically run into it," he says.

Locksmith Central is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and 24 hours a day for lockout emergencies. The business is bonded and licensed by the state of California.

Neighborhood Library Campaign

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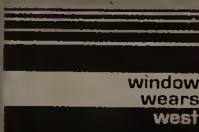
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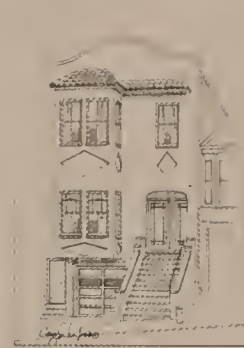
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OCTOBER 2007

Oct. 1: ALICIA BAY LAUREL discusses her book *Living On the Earth* at ODD MONDAYS, 7 pm. No-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Oct. 1-10: The San Francisco Documentary FILM Festival features more than 60 films and videos at the Roxie Cinema, 3125 16th St. For a schedule: 820-3907; www.info@sfindie.com.

Oct. 1-31: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

Oct. 1-31: The SF Library's BOOK-MOBILE parks in Noe Valley on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 am-1 pm. 665 Elizabeth St. 557-4353.

Oct. 1-31: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

Oct. 1-31: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7-8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Oct. 2: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group, 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama St. 554-3050.

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The Noe Valley Library sponsors baby LAPSITS at 10:15 am and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. Bethany Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393; www.sipl.org

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers an introductory MEDITATION class on Tuesdays, from 7 to 8:30 pm. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

Oct. 3: Noe Valley historian and author BILL YENNE signs his new book, *Rising Sons: The Japanese Americans Who Fought for the United States in World War II*. 6 pm. Book Passage, Ferry Building, 1 Ferry Plaza. 835-1020.

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Danielle is the STORYTELLER at Cover to Cover's Wednesday Story Hour. 3-4 pm. 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

Oct. 4-14: Jeffrey Hartgraves performs a dramatic COMEDY show, "Shark Bites," at Theater Rhinoceros. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079; www.therhino.org.

Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25: "Keep that baby rolling" at an ongoing Thursday 11 am STROLLER WALK. Meet at Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

Oct. 4-Nov. 21: "Super Heroes Super Villains," an ART SHOW at Creativity Explored, will hold a reception for the artists Oct. 4, 7-9 pm. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

Oct. 5-7: The Castro Theatre holds a three-day HORROR FILM FEST called "Shock It to Me!" For schedule, call 621-6120 or visit www.shock-it-to-me.com.

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Friday BINGO at St. Paul's begins 7 pm (doors open 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley St. 648-7538.

Oct. 6: Tuber Creations presents Sven Eberlein's "Connecting Worlds," featuring music by Chemistry Set; a BENEFIT for First Exposures photography program for youth and Afghans4Tomorrow. 4-7 pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission St. 282-3325; www.tubercreations.com.

Oct. 6: LITOUAKE 2007 kicks off with "Tales: An Evening with Armistead and Friends," including Amy Tan, Laura Linney, Susie Bright, Michelle Tea, and Father Guido Sarducci. 8 pm. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness. www.litquake.org

Oct. 6: The SF Neighborhood Theater Foundation hosts a screening of the 1950 FILM *Sunset Boulevard* in Dolores Park. 18th and Dolores. 8 pm. 465-3456; www.sfnth.org.

Oct. 6: Ben Goldberg, Scott Amendola, Devin Hoff play jazz that conjures the spirit of Thelonious Monk, at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Oct. 6 & 7: Super BLUEGRASS Week-end features bands at the Plough and Stars (116 Clement St.) on Saturday, and at the Knockout (3223 Mission St.) on Sunday. 9 pm. 664-2044.

Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Music happens every Saturday at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. Oct. 6: The Swinging Guitars of Tom Huber and Mississippi Mike (8:30-10:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am-1 pm). Oct. 13 Harvest Fest: Jude (10-11 am), Ian Shaul (11 am-12:15 pm), They Call Me Lucky (12:15-1:30 pm), Swing Serenade (1:30-2:45 pm), Ouake City (2:45-4 pm), and Skiffle Symphony (4-5 pm). Oct. 20: Julie Rosenthal (8:30-10:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am-1 pm). Oct. 27: Julie Rosenthal (8:30-10:30 am) and As It Goes (10:30 am-1 pm). 24th and Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Oct. 7: The 34th annual CASTRO STREET FAIR features arts and crafts, music, and food. 11 am-6 pm. 841-1824; www.castrostreetfair.org.

Oct. 7: Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes, in front of Zephyr Real Estate. Noon-4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

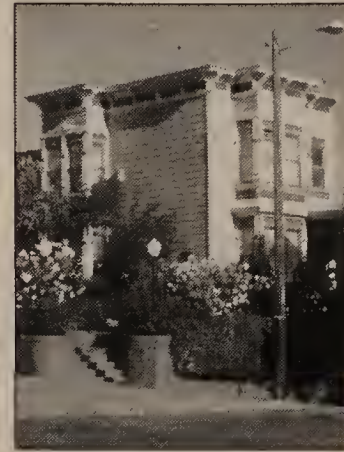
Oct. 9: The SF Zoo's SENIOR STROLL is a docent-guided walking tour on the second Tuesday of every month. 9-10:15 am. 1 Zoo Road (off Sloat near the Great Highway). 753-7173.

Oct. 9: LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI signs copies of his new book, *Poetry As Insurgent Art*. 7 pm. The Booksmith, 1644 Haight St. 863-8688.

Oct. 11: In "Cheers to Muses," writers OLIVIA BOLER, Nancy Horn, Clara Hsu, Nellie Wong, and Debbie Yee read from their work. 7 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St. 586-3733.

Oct. 11: The League of Women Voters hosts a MAYORAL DEBATE, featuring Mayor Gavin Newsom and other candidates. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

Oct. 11: Google buses, Board elections, and senior condos will be on the agenda at the FRIENDS of Noe Valley meeting. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. rambooks@pacbell.net.



The majestic Victorian at Noe and 26th streets will be on the Victorian Alliance's Noe Valley House Tour on Oct. 21. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Oct. 11: The third annual "Dock at DOLCE," sponsored by the SF Delta Gamma alumnae chapter, benefits San Rafael Guide Dogs for the Blind. 9 pm. 440 Broadway. www.sfdg.org.

Oct. 11-14: OKTOBERFEST by the Bay celebrates all things German with music, dancing, crafts, and refreshments. Thurs.

& Fri., 5 pm-midnight; Sat., 11 am-11 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason. 888 746-7522; www.oktoberfestbythebay.com.

Oct. 13: Design Solutions offers a seminar, "Energy-Efficient WINDOWS for Residential Customers," led by Dan Mullins of Windows Express. 10 am-noon. 4291 24th St. 648-6561; www.sidesignsolutions.com.

Oct. 13: The Noe Valley HARVEST FESTIVAL includes entertainment, arts and crafts, contests, a pumpkin patch, and a "Primp My Stroller" contest. 10 am-4 pm. A hayride, sponsored by the Merchants Association, departs from Walgreen's between 11 am and 2:30 pm. 24th between Sanchez and Church. www.noevalleyharvestfestival.com.

Oct. 13: The GLEN PARK LIBRARY celebrates its grand reopening with lion dancers and a street fair on Diamond Street between Bosworth and Chenery. 1 pm. 2825 Diamond St. 557-4277.

Oct. 13: A neighborhood DRILL for all NERT team members in Noe, Bernal, Castro, Diamond Heights, Glen Park, and the Mission runs from 9 am to noon. Elsie at Holly Park Circle. 970-2024; www.sfgov.org/sfddnert.

Oct. 13: LITOUAKE's "Lit Crawl" has readings by more than 200 writers at venues throughout the Mission, including an 8 pm program of *Chronicle* columnists, reporters, and cartoonists, at 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. 6-8:45 pm. www.litquake.org.

Oct. 13: The 2007 ROLLER DERBY Championships feature the San Francisco Bay Bombers competing against the Red Devils and the Pioneers. 7 pm. Kezar Pavilion, 755 Stryan St. www.freewebs.com/bombersrollerderby.

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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided
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Annual Rummage Sale
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Sanchez Street between 23rd and 24th

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Gourmet Luncheon
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Refreshments All Day

www.noevalleyministry.org
Noe Valley Ministry is an Inclusive Church, Welcoming to GLBTs

CALENDAR

Oct. 13: Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presents the fourth annual GEORGE BUSH Going Away Party, a benefit for the "Military Out of Our Schools" program. 8 pm. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. 522-3737; www.koshercomedy.com.

Oct. 14: Pets Unlimited hosts Carnival of the Animals and ANIMALS IN ART, a benefit featuring an art auction from 1 to 2:45 pm, and a 3 pm concert of "beastly works" by Saint-Saëns, Debussy, and Mozart, with narration by Amy Tan. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. 775-2573; www.petsunlimited.org.

Oct. 14: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC opening night features the Tilden Piano Trio performing works by Beethoven, Arensky, and Ravel. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. www.nvcm.org.

Oct. 14, 22 & 28: Spring PILATES Studio offers mat classes to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Fund. Oct. 14, 11 am; Oct. 22, noon; Oct. 28, 10 am. Suite D, 1414 Castro St. 282-8850; www.springpilates.com.

Oct. 15: The SPCA hosts a talk by DAVID FREI, host of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and founder of Angel on a Leash, supporting therapy dogs. 7 pm. 243 Alabama St. 559-3029.

Oct. 17: The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board holds a public hearing regarding a proposal to grant landmark status to the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library. 12:30 pm. City Hall, Room 400. 558-6378; www.sfgov.org/site/planning.

Oct. 17: Architect and historian Alice Carey discusses the legacy of San Francisco's CARNEGIE LIBRARIES, including the Noe Valley Branch, in a program hosted by the Friends of the SF Public Library. 6 pm. 391 Grove St. 626-7500; www.friendsandfoundation.org.

Oct. 17: Scott Wiener, chair of the SF Democratic Party, and Christopher Waldrep, American History professor at SFSU, discuss proposed changes to the ELECTORAL college, at the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 641-5838.

Oct. 17 & 27: Forbeadin' offers a class in beginning JEWELRY techniques. Oct. 17, 7-9 pm; Oct. 27, 10 am-12:30 pm. 1195 Church St. 641-1414.

Oct. 18: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOLUNTEER orientation. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538; www.stlukes-sf.org.

Oct. 18: The Instituto Italiano di Cultura honors LUCIANO PAVAROTTI with a free presentation by musicologist Luciano Chessa. 6:30 pm. 425 Washington St., Suite 200. 788-7142; www.sfic.org.

Oct. 18: Paul Winans offers a free seminar on HOME REMODELING. 6:30-9 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.winconinc.com.

Oct. 19-21: Bird & Beckett Books' GRAND OPENING in its new location features live jazz and poetry readings. 1-8 pm. 653 Chenery St. 586-3733.

Oct. 20: SF Parents of Multiples hosts a baby and kid consignment SALE, featuring clothes, toys, furniture, and books. 9 am-3 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way. www.sfpom.org/consignmentsale.

Oct. 20: Children of all ages can create a DIA DE LOS MUERTOS altar with Anita DeLucio-Brock at the Mission Library. 11 am. 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

Oct. 20: Precita Eyes MURAL Center celebrates its 30th anniversary with a gala fundraiser, featuring an auction of art by 30 master muralists. 6-10 pm. 499 Alabama St. www.precitaeyes.org.

Oct. 20: Kihnoua and the Tips Trio, featuring members of the ROVA SAXOPHONE Quartet, perform an homage to Steve Lacy at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Oct. 20 & 21: Ellen Into displays her oil paintings in conjunction with ArtSpan's OPEN STUDIOS. 10 am-5 pm. 24th Street Studio/Gallery, 4189 24th St. 550-8864.

Oct. 21: San Francisco's Victorian Alliance sponsors a Noe Valley HOUSE TOUR featuring 10 Victorian beauties. Tickets at 656 Elizabeth St. 1-5 pm. 824-2666; www.victorianalliance.org.

Oct. 25: Peekabootique's PARENTS PARTY Night offers wine, Orangina, and goldfish crackers. 5:30-7:30 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

Oct. 25: UPPER NOE Neighbors group meets at the 30th Street Senior Center at 7:30 pm. 225 30th St. 285-0473.

Oct. 27: Noe Valley Ministry's fall RUMMAGE SALE offers whatnots and food for sale to benefit the church. 9 am-3 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Oct. 27: Noe Valley Against the War holds a feeder walk to the 11 am ANTI-WAR RALLY at Civic Center. Meet 10 am at the corner of Castro Street and 24th. noevalleyantiwar@sbcglobal.net.

Oct. 27: The second Upper Market PLANNING WORKSHOP will discuss proposed developments along Market. 10 am-1 pm. 4235 19th St. 558-6314.

Oct. 27: BOO AT THE ZOO for kids in costume and their families features a haunted nature trail, trick-or-treat stations, and a Creepy Crawley Critter presentation. 10 am-3 pm. 1 Zoo Road. 753-7080.

Oct. 27: Family HALLOWEEN DAY at the Randall Museum has ghoulish games and crafts, 10 am to 2 pm, plus a performance by Eth-Noh-Tec at 2 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

Oct. 27: DOGTOBERFEST in Upper Douglass Dog Park includes costumes, a portrait photographer, prize drawings, and activities and goodies for dogs and their owners. 11 am-2 pm. 27th at Douglass. www.fuddp.org.

Oct. 27: The 30th Street Senior Center's annual "Autumn Magic" FUNDRAISER features a raffle, dinner, and dancing. 5:30-10:30 pm. El Patio Español, 2850 Alemany Blvd. 550-2223.

Oct. 27: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts a tribute to JACK KEROUAC, with Gerald Nicosia, Phil Cousineau, and R.B. Morris. 7:30 pm. 653 Chenery St. 586-3733.

Oct. 28: PET PRIDE Day includes a dog costume contest, a trick competition, and working animal demonstrations. 11 am-3 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 554-9427; www.sfgov.org/site/acc.

Oct. 28: The second annual Children's HALLOWEEN HOOTENANNY features performers, exhibitions, and hands-on activities for children of all ages. 11 am-5:30 pm. Stanyan and Waller cul-de-sac next to Kezar Pavilion. 664-2970; www.haightashburystreetfair.org.

Oct. 29: Sardinian composer Luciano Chessa and Nigerian-born poet Uchechi Kalu discuss their work at ODD MONDAYS, 7 pm, preceded by a no-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Oct. 30: Sharon Dobrott tells spooky HALLOWEEN STORIES for ages 2.5 to 5. 10:30 am. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

Oct. 31: Look for the lighted pumpkins, bags of treats, and a skeleton band on HAUNTED HOFFMAN Avenue between 24th and Alvarado. 6-8 pm. 285-6265.

Oct. 31: The Haunted PRESIDIO will host a one-mile walk in the park led by ranger Rik Penn. Meet at Lincoln Boulevard and Funston Avenue, 6 pm. For reservations (required), call 561-4323 or visit www.parksconservancy.org.

Oct. 31: City Guides offers a GHOST WALK at City Hall. Meet at 6:30 pm in South Light Court, through the Polk Street entrance. www.sfcityguides.com.

Oct. 31: METALWEEN at the Elbo Room features Ludicra, Gravehill, and Splatterhouse. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

Nov. 2: The annual DAY OF THE DEAD procession begins at 7 pm on the corner of 24th and Bryant; an altar installation will be exhibited at Garfield Park, Harrison and 26th. www.dayofthedeadsf.org.

Nov. 3: Vocalist and solo violinist Eva Bittova performs a CONCERT with special guests at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

Day of the Deadline

If we survive Halloween night, the November 2007 *Noe Valley Voice* should be out just after Día de los Muertos, on Nov. 2. So we will be looking for your calendar items before **Oct. 15**. E-mail items to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Please put the date of your event near the top of the e-mail. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other items as possible.



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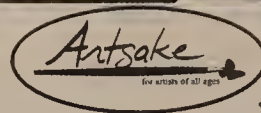


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Fall Schedule

See website for Reformer class schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Yoga Power Hour Vinyasa Flow Megan 7:00-8:00AM		Yoga Power Hour Vinyasa Flow Megan 7:00-8:00AM		Yoga Power Hour Vinyasa Flow Megan 7:00-8:00AM	
	Yoga Ashtanga Leila 8:30-10:00AM			Pilates Mat All Levels Ciel 8:30-9:25 PM	
Yoga Flow Megan 9:30-11:00 AM		Yoga Flow Megan 9:30-11:00 AM		Yoga Flow Megan 9:30-11:00 AM	Yoga Vinyasa Flow Alex 9:00-10:30 AM
	Yoga Ashtanga Leila 10:30-11:30AM				Yoga Vinyasa Flow Alex 11:00-12:30 PM
Pilates Mat All Levels Izabel 12:30-1:25 PM				Pilates Mat All Levels Izabel 12:00-12:55 PM	
	Yoga Vinyasa Flow Alex 4:00-5:30 PM		Yoga Vinyasa Flow Alex 4:00-5:30 PM		
Yoga Ashtanga Leila 6:30-8:00 PM	Pilates Mat All Levels Ky 6:30-7:25 PM	Yoga Ashtanga Leila 6:30-8:00 PM	Pilates Mat All Levels Paige 6:30-7:25 PM	Yoga Ashtanga Leila 6:00-7:30 PM	
	Yoga Vinyasa Flow Alex 7:30-9:00 PM		Yoga Vinyasa Flow Alex 7:30-9:00 PM		

Class schedule subject to change. Please see our website for the latest schedule.



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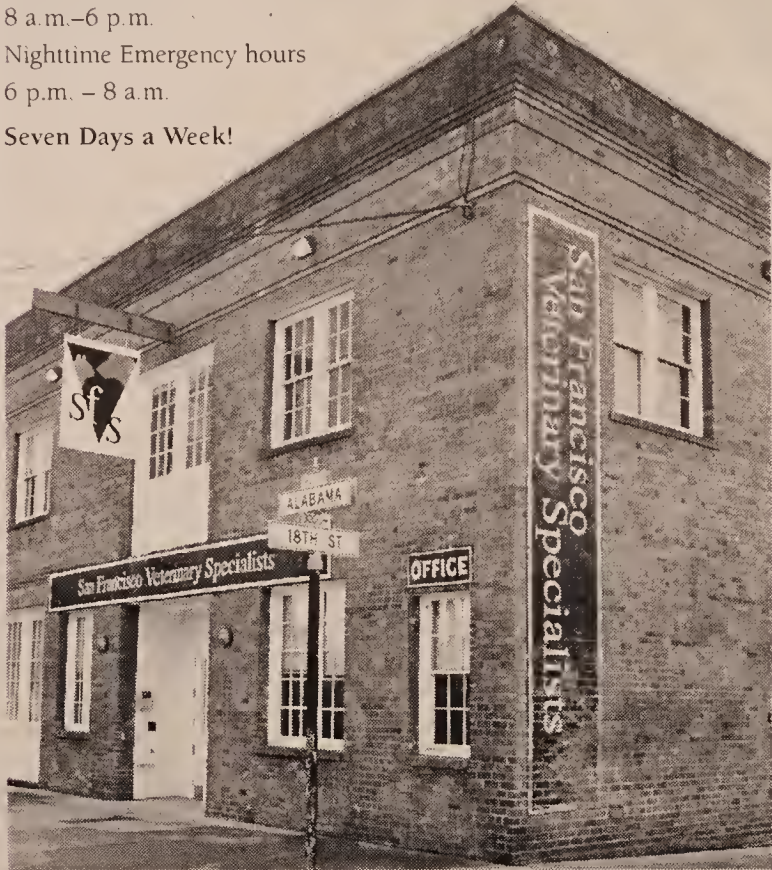
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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Leif It Be

Editor's Note: In this column excavated from the October 1994 Noe Valley Voice, 21st Street resident Florence Holub touches on the prickly question "Who discovered America?"

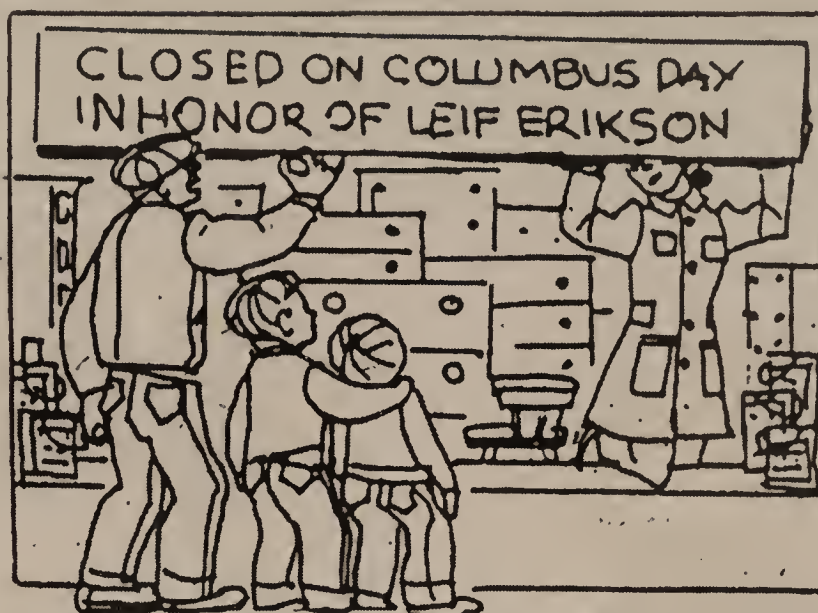
Back in the 1940s, while Harry Truman was running the country, I tended my father's paint store on Mission Street near 30th Street. Although I was dependable and courteous as a store clerk, I never developed a shrewd business mind. I know this to be true because Lil, a high-school mate who ran the thriving Modern Mattress Company up the street, told me so.

Lil often dropped in on her way to the bank to chat. One day, after I had put a poster of a Democratic candidate running for office in our window, she burst in the door shaking her head and said emphatically, "There are two things to avoid in business because they are disastrous—one is politics, the other is religion!"



I followed this sound advice religiously for quite a few days. But I forgot her admonition one day in mid-October when my father decided to close up shop for the Columbus Day holiday.

We had to make a sign for the window to inform our customers, and when my oldest son, Michael, made a tongue-in-cheek suggestion, my father eagerly adopted it, while laughing heartily: "We will be closed on Columbus Day," our sign read, "in honor of Leif Erikson!" (Every Scandinavian is convinced that it was Leif Erikson and not Christopher Columbus who first traveled to the New World, for so it is recorded in the Viking sagas.)



The next day, we returned to work feeling a bit smug about our statement, until Lil entered the door shaking her head and exclaiming, "You did it again! You just lost all of your Italian customers!"

That possibility hadn't occurred to us, but upon reflection we realized that our nation's origins could be a pretty touchy subject. I have since observed a lot of controversy surrounding the claim that Columbus "discovered" America.

The Chinese say that in the fifth century a Buddhist priest named Hui Shen junketed across the Pacific Ocean and landed in what is now Mexico. But according to Irish documents, the monk St. Brendan was the first to sail across the Atlantic, in a boat made of ox hide.

And Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian writer and explorer, completed a voyage across the Atlantic from Morocco in a papyrus boat, just to prove that Egyptians or other Mediterraneans could have done the same thing long ago.

But until recently, there had been no archaeological evidence to support any of these theories, so Columbus, whose voyage was well documented, remained the frontrunner.

In 1960, however, a Norwegian explorer and writer, Helge Ingstad, along with his archaeologist wife, Anne Stine, began excavating what proved to be the ruins of a Viking village in Newfoundland, Canada. Here they unearthed artifacts of Norse origin that were carbon-dated to the late 10th century.

According to the Viking sagas, it was about this same time, the late 990s, that Leif Erikson was blown off course on his voyage back from Norway and got his first sight of the unknown land to the west of his family home on Greenland. Greenland is the place to which his father, Eric the Red (a bad-tempered person), had to flee after being banished

from Iceland for murdering several men.

In those days, Greenland was a cold, treeless island with few raw materials. Most necessities had to be imported, and there was little to offer in trade. When Leif docked following one of his trips from Norway, he informed the Greenlanders of his discovery of a land of incredible riches, which he called "Vinland" ("vinland" means grassland or meadow in old Norse).

(To complicate matters, he also brought word of the new Christian religion now sweeping Scandinavia. His mother, Thjódhilde, quickly converted, but his father, Eric the Red, was reluctant to abandon the old Norse gods. Because of this, Eric the Red's wife refused to have intimate relations with him, which made him very angry indeed!)

Spurred on by Leif's description, in the early 1000s (Erikson died in 1020), several boatloads of settlers emigrated from the misnamed Greenland to the greener pastures of Vinland, carrying a full complement of supplies and domestic animals.

Upon their arrival, they built a Viking village using timber logged in the thick forests. They stayed for only a few years, however, because soon they began quarreling with each other, as well as with the indigenous peoples, whom they called "skraelings" (savages).

When Leif's brother, Torstein, was killed by one of the skraelings' arrows, the settlers decided it was time to go back to Greenland.

Until 30 years ago [1960s] no one knew where Vinland was located, but today scholars are certain that the land discovered by Leif Erikson was what is now known as L'Anse aux Meadows, in

Newfoundland, Canada. There, reconstructions of Viking sod houses have been erected upon the original unearthed foundations, and the area has been declared a National Historic Park, open to visitors from May to mid-October (the time of the Columbus Day holiday).

It is written that the first European child born in North America to Gudrid and Thorfinn Karlesefni was named "Snorri." That name always makes me think of a word I learned from my Swedish-speaking mother and later used when my little boys had a head cold.

I would take a swipe at their noses with Kleenex and say, "Shorra nosa," which means (if you will pardon the expression) "snotty nose." What a name to have to live up to!

My man Leo and I thought we did a trifle better when we named our youngest son after Eric the Red, Leif's father (before we learned what an ill-humored fellow Eric was, and before an old Italian family friend asked me one day, "Why did you name your baby Earaohe?").



A few years ago we heard yet another discovery theory. We were at a potluck benefit at the Noe Valley Ministry sponsored by the American Indian Movement, and the highlight of the evening was a performance by Native American folksinger Floyd Westerman.

Between ballads he spoke about the peopling of the country as he saw it. His good-natured interpretation went something like this: "We have heard how archaeologists say that the first Americans came from Siberia to Alaska 20,000 years ago. They were hunters who followed the mammoth, the mastodon, and the bison across a land bridge during an ice age."

The experts can see "footsteps" of evidence pointing in this direction. But Floyd Westerman argued, "They got it wrong—we were always here! Those footprints are the result of an old Indian trick—walking backwards!"

Because so many factions have staked their claim on America, I hope my Scandinavian bias will not offend any of my Italian, Chinese, Irish, African, Mexican, or Native American readers.

A happy Columbus Day to all!

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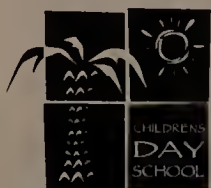
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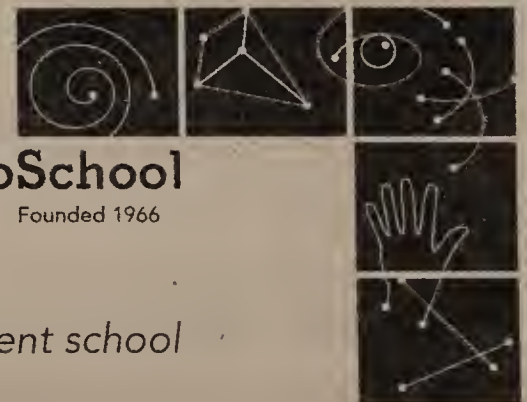
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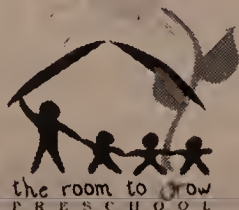
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SCHOOL REPORT

Our stringers at James Lick Middle School and Fairmount Elementary report on the fall adventures of students and staff. See page 1 for a story on Alvarado Elementary.

JAMES LICK

State of the School, Fall 2007

A crisp hint of autumn filled the air as James Lick Middle School opened the 2007-08 school year with an enrollment of 556 students in grades six through eight. Parents arriving for Back to School Night on a breezy September evening were welcomed by Principal Carmelo Sgarlato, PTSA President Julia Harrison, and key staff members in the school's beautiful foyer. Many of Lick's bilingual students were also on hand to assist non-English-speaking parents and to translate the teachers' classroom presentations.

The crowd was happy and excited to hear that the school's arts and after-school programs are expanding, the Spanish-immersion program is thriving, and a new wellness center for students is set to open on the second floor of the school this month.

Blues Artist Wows Young Musicians

Chart-topping blues musician Joe Bonamassa treated James Lick music students to a solo performance and a discussion of the blues, in the school's auditorium on Sept. 18. Playing selections of popular music, Bonamassa demonstrated how the blues became the foundation for the hip-hop, jazz, rock, and country music the students enjoy today.

Thirty-year-old Bonamassa, who began learning guitar at the age of 4 and touring with B.B. King by the time he was 12, has recorded 10 albums. He was recently named Best Blues Guitarist in *Guitar Magazine's* 2007 Readers' Choice Awards. When students expressed awe at the smoothness and speed of his playing, he attributed his success to years of dedication and hard work, and then played a classical guitar riff to illustrate the kind of music he studied as a child.

Why the switch to blues? In a word, freedom: "Classical music is written to be played the same way every time. The blues is all about interpretation and improvisation." Bonamassa's appearance was sponsored by Blue Bear School of Music and the Blues in the Schools program.

More Than Just the ABCs

James Lick's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) elective programs have expanded to include art, dance, drama, instrumental band, and rock. Students are especially revved up because this year they will be able to change electives every eight weeks and learn more skills.

After school hours, students can try out to play in bands or audition for plays. Gary Soto's play *Novio Boy* will be offered this fall, and the musical *Hairspray* will be staged next spring. Basketball teams have formed, with volleyball and soccer due later in the semester. These opportunities are in addition to our Beyond the Bell after-school program, which has added Aztec dancing and beginning Spanish to its diverse selection of classes.

Altar for Día de los Muertos Goes to De Young

Students from James Lick, working in partnership with the de Young Museum and S.C.R.A.P. (Scroungers' Center for Recyclable Arts Parts) and artists Aiko Cuneo and Lilli Lanier, are proud to be making two altars for El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) this year. One altar will be installed in the school lobby, and the other will be installed in the Media Room of the de Young Museum from Oct. 31 through Nov. 7.

Well Done, Families

A family workday on Saturday, Sept. 22, focused on setting up the new student wellness center in Room 223. The school's families moved stacks of books, repaired equipment, and cleaned up the room, preparing the new center for its debut in October. James Lick is one of only two San Francisco middle schools selected to host this innovative program, which is designed to improve health, well-being, and educational outcomes for the students. A barbecue lunch concluded the busy morning.

Chat with the Principal

Principal Sgarlato met with parents on Friday morning, Sept. 21, to discuss the State of the School, 2007. Topics included the results of the most recent California Standards Test, and tips on how parents can support their children's learning at home.

Chats continue on the third Friday of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. throughout the school year. Food and beverages are provided. The next chat is scheduled for Oct. 19. (Call the school to confirm date and topic.)

Take a Tour of Campus

James Lick School tours for parents of fifth-graders resume on Thursday, Oct. 4, and continue every Thursday morning through Dec. 13. Meet in front of the school office at 9 a.m. No reservations are needed.

Park for a Good Cause

The James Lick parking lot on 25th Street near Castro Street will be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, for the Noe Valley Harvest Festival and Hayride (or shopping at the Farmers' Market). For a \$10 donation per car, you can park close to 24th Street and help the James Lick PTSA fund our outstanding student programs.

—Sue Cattoche

FAIRMOUNT

Mayor and Superintendent Bring Town Hall to Fairmount

In mid-August, Gavin Newsom, joined by San Francisco's new schools chief, Carlos Garcia, held a town hall meeting on education, at Fairmount Elementary School. Neighbors, representatives from the PTA and Parents for Public Schools, and members of the Fairmount school community packed the cafeteria to hear remarks by the mayor and school superintendent, followed by a question-and-answer session.

As the two officials mixed serious discussion with humorous banter, a common theme of emerged. Mayor Newsom reiterated his commitment to helping the city and school district work better together, and promised continued support of after-school programs and student wellness centers by the city's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. Newsom also trumpeted how Proposition H resources, approved by the voters in 2004, would continue to roll out and provide millions of dollars for sports, arts and music, and counseling programs for schools during the 2007-08 school year.

Superintendent Garcia, who in the 1980s had served as principal of Horace Mann Middle School in the Mission District, enthusiastically expounded his vision of all students being capable of achieving success, especially if they are reading at grade level by the third grade. He said he and the school board would meet to develop a short list of priorities focusing on all aspects of the school district, which, based on the latest test scores, continued to be the highest performing urban district in the state. He made it clear that one of those priorities would be closing the achievement gaps between the various ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the district.

While speaking about budget difficulties, Garcia mentioned that, in the face of declining enrollment, the district might have to reduce the number of schools, or at least combine a number of small school programs at a single site, to consolidate resources for the academic benefit of students.

Both he and the mayor spoke about the importance of leadership and cited Fairmount Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort as an example of a school leader who continued to make a big difference in the lives of students. For his part, Aguilera-Fort asked all members of the school community to redouble their efforts to

meet the students' academic needs. He noted that Fairmount's academic performance continued to improve, with the latest state test results showing school-wide gains in language arts and mathematics.

Harvest Raffle Follows Car Wash

Fairmount's fall car wash on Sept. 9 was a big success, raising more than \$2,000, as parents, kids, and staff got their hoses and sponges out and cleaned that summer dust and dirt off the cars rumbling into the schoolyard.

The second annual Fairmount Harvest Festival, which features a fundraising raffle, is now under way. Look for Fairmount munchkins selling tickets on 24th Street, Church Street, and throughout the neighborhood.

The community is invited to the free festival at the school on Sunday, Oct. 28, when prizewinners will be announced. First prize is \$500 cash, second prize is a \$150 gift card from Cole Hardware, and third prize is an iPod Shuffle.

Fairmount raised \$15,000 last year from the Harvest Festival raffle, which helps fund art, music, dance, P.E., library assistants, and other enrichment programs for our students. This year, we hope to do even better.

This event will also be a good time to check out our dynamic school community, for parents who have children entering kindergarten next year. School tours will continue during the fall on Tuesdays. Contact the school office at 695-5669 for tour times and details.

A great way to determine whether Fairmount is the school for your child is to come take a look at our dual Spanish-immersion program in action.

—Tom Ruiz

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Fairmount Elementary School
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
www.fairmountschoolpta.org

Alvarado Elementary School
Robert Broecker, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

James Lick Middle School
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
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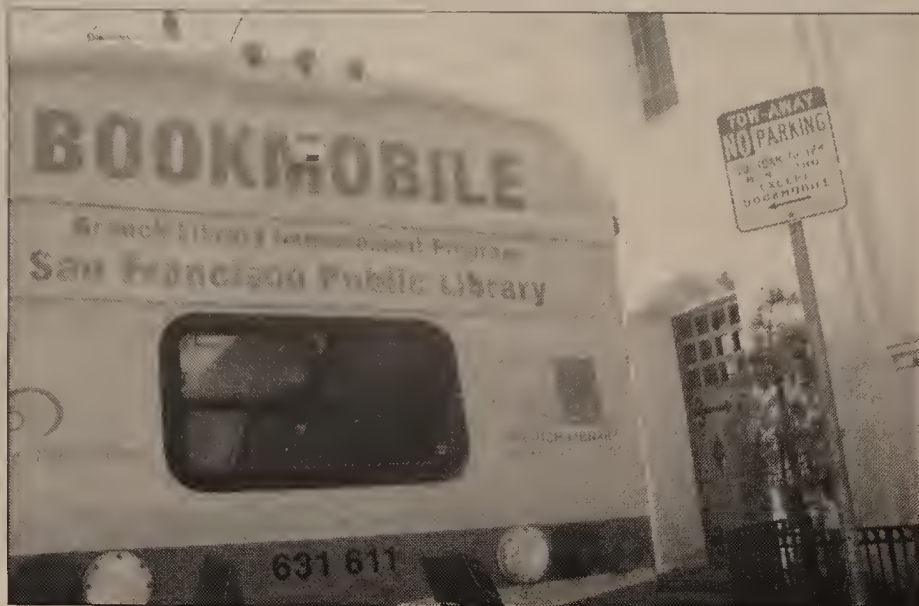
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You're on Borrowed Time: The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation has learned that cars parked in the spot designated for the Library's bookmobile on Mondays and Wednesdays are getting ticketed and towed, whether or not their drivers have overdue books. The big yellow bus rolls in at 10 a.m. and sits till 1 p.m. at 665 Elizabeth near Diamond. Photo by Pamela Gerard

WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

City Information Line	311
Burned-Out Streetlights Street Lighting and Repair	415-554-0730
Graffiti	415-241-WASH
Illegal Dumping (litter, dog poop)	415-28-CLEAN (282-5326)
Potholes potholes@sfpw.org	415-695-2100 (695-2020 after 5 p.m.)
Sewer Odor 24-Hour Odor Hotline	415-695-2096
Tree Hazards and Trimming	415-28-CLEAN (282-5326)
Lost or Injured Animals Animal Care and Control	415-554-9405
Traffic Signals Out	415-550-2736
Missing or Damaged Street Signs	415-554-9780
Abandoned Vehicles	415-553-9817
Aggressive Panhandling	415-553-0123
Illegal Parking DPT Dispatch	415-553-1200
Detox Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP)	415-431-7400
Homeless Outreach (Project Homeless Connect)	www.sfconnect.org
Utility Undergrounding Department of Public Works undergrounding@sfgov.org	415-554-4860
Whistleblower Hotline	415-554-2489
24th Street Community Benefit District (CBD) Dispatch	415-559-8492
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services www.sfgov.org/mons	415-554-7111
District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty	415-554-6968

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—HERM ALBRIGHT (1876-1944)



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The Port of San Francisco ("Port") and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission ("SFPUC") are developing regulatory guidance and design standards that will help reduce stormwater pollution in areas of San Francisco where runoff discharges directly to local lakes and San Francisco Bay. Please join the Port and SFPUC for our second Open House to review the progress made to date.

**Stormwater Design Guidelines
Open House #2
Thursday, October 25, 2007
6:00-8:30 PM
Port of San Francisco
Pier 1, San Francisco**

For more information, please contact John Mundy at (415) 274-0256.

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Has the pile sitting by your bed dwindled to *Audacity of Hope*? Here are some new books to read this fall, suggested by Children's Librarian Pam Ow and *Voice* Speedreader Karol Barske. To see if a book is available at your local branch, visit the San Francisco Library online at www.sfpl.org. Note: The Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey Street is currently closed for renovation. The new target date for reopening is Spring 2008.

Adult Fiction

- A young homeless woman witnesses a crime while she searches for her missing husband on the streets of San Francisco, in poet Kim Addonizio's second novel, *My Dreams Out in the Street*.
- In *The Sister: A Novel of Emily Dickinson*, by Argentinian writer Paola Kaufmann, the life of the 19th-century New England poet is seen through the eyes of her younger sister Lavinia.
- Doris Lessing's *The Cleft* offers an alternative story of the origins and evolution of the human race, with the first people being female. The tale is interwoven with the journal of an elderly Roman historian.

Adult Nonfiction

- In *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* correspondent Tim Weiner analyzes the workings of the United States' main intelligence-gathering arm, from 1947 to today.
- Journalist Sara Bongiorni documents *A Year Without "Made in China"*—her family's attempt to give up products made in the world's fastest growing economy.
- Maureen B. Adams' *Shaggy Muses*, subtitled "the Dogs Who Inspired Virginia Woolf, Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Edith Wharton, and Emily Brontë," describes the intense emotional attachments five women writers had for their canine companions.
- Joshua Clark's memoir of life in New Orleans, *Heart Like Water: Surviving Katrina and Life in Its Disaster Zone*, chronicles the physical and emotional devastation of the hurricane and its aftermath, while maintaining a sense of the absurd.

—Karol Barske of the Noe Valley Voice staff

Children's Fiction

- *Library Lion* becomes a helpful, friendly presence in the library once he learns to obey the rules. After an accident occurs, even the disapproving Mr. McBee realizes that sometimes, under special circumstances, a rule may be broken. Michelle Knudsen's story and Kevin Hawkes' illustrations pay homage to libraries. *Ages 4 to 7*.
- A classroom of kids, including Charlie, who is the smallest one, learns some science and counting methods when they open up

three pumpkins, sized small, medium, and large, to learn *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* Margaret McNamara's text is illustrated by G. Brian Karas. *Ages 5 to 7*.

- In Rose Impey's *Wanda Witch and the Wobbly Fang*, a little witch girl goes a bit overboard with a magic spell to make her loose fang fall out. Katharine McEwen illustrates this beginning reader. *Ages 5 to 7*.
- Korean-American Kimin forges a connection between Halloween traditions and memories of his Korean grandfather when he dresses in his grandpa's scary dance mask and clothes, in Yangsook Choi's *Beyond the Mask*. *Ages 5 to 8*.
- Sara Pennypacker's *Clementine* is an irrepressible 8-year-old who really does pay attention, but who still manages to get into humorous predicaments at home and at school. Clementine's fresh and honest first-person narrative is accompanied by Marla Frazee's expressive ink drawings. *Ages 7 to 9*.

Children's Nonfiction

- Bob Raczk offers an appealing introduction to 20th-century sculpture in *3-D ABC: A Sculptural Alphabet*. Learn about different styles and materials, and think about your responses to the art in full-color photographs. *Ages 4 to 10*.

—Pam Ow, Children's Librarian
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial
Branch Library

LIBRARY EVENTS

Tell Me a Story

- The Noe Valley Library invites you to enjoy stories, songs, and finger plays with your baby or toddler at the *lapsits* held on Tuesdays, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10:15 a.m., at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper Street. *Preschool story time*, a read-aloud program for kids ages 3 to 5, follows at 11 a.m.

Catch the Book Bus

- You can get a library card and check out books, CDs, DVDs, and VHS videos at the *Noe Valley Bookmobile*, which parks on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 665 Elizabeth Street near Diamond.

Wear Your Costume

- Sherrie Dobrott hosts a *Spooky Halloween Story Time*, for ages 2 1/2 to 5, at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at the Eureka Valley Branch Library, on 16th Street near Market. There is also an afternoon story time (3:30 p.m.) the same day, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes for kids 3 to 6.

Glen Park Open House

- The new Glen Park Library, at 2825 Diamond Street, holds a *grand opening celebration* featuring lion dancers, music, and a street fair at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13. Branch opens at 2.

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Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat
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Mission Branch Library
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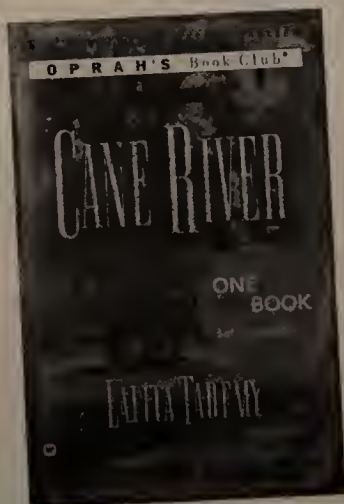
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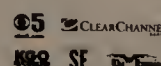
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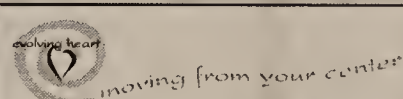
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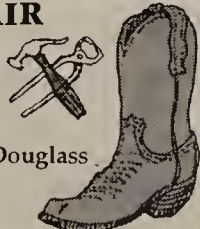
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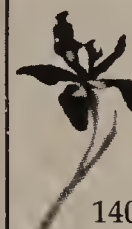
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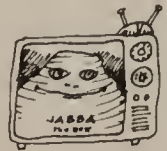
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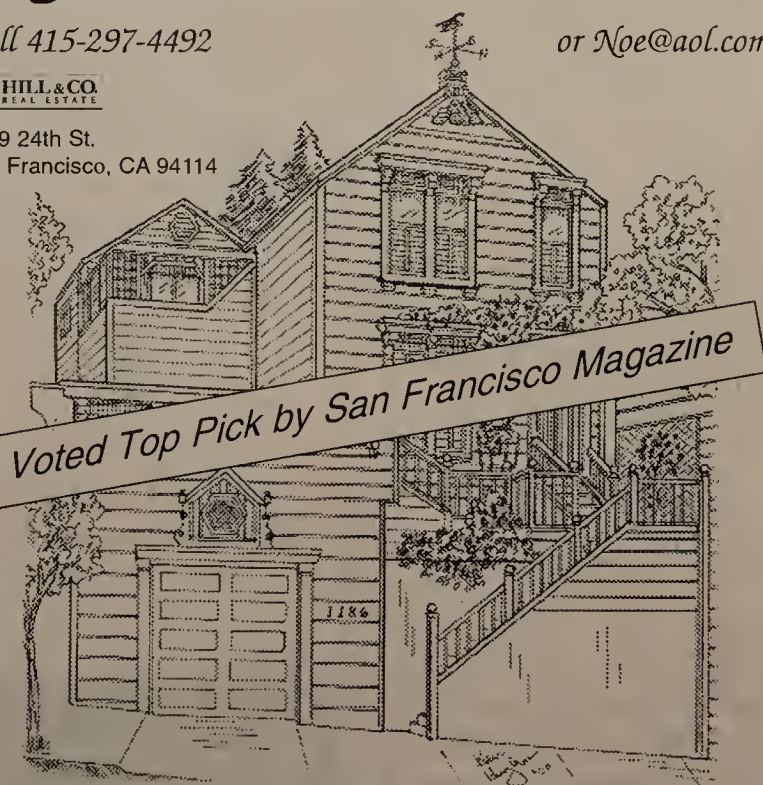
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Dogilicious Walks and Petsitting. Noe Valley resident offers daily beach and park excursions for lucky dogs. Call or e-mail Nancy at 415-710-3195; dogiliciouswalks@hotmail.com. Web site: www.dogiliciouswalks.com; blog: <http://blog.dogiliciouswalks.com>.

How to Place a Class Ad

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the November 2007 issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of November. **The deadline for Class Ads is Oct. 15.**

Note: The Class Ads are displayed for one month on the *Voice* web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.



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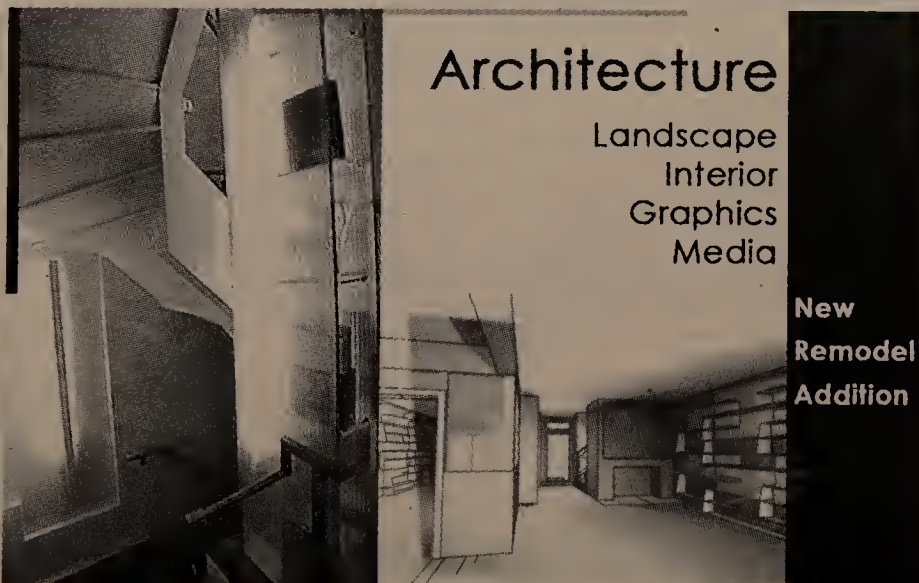
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Herb's Is Toast

By Mazook

END OF AN ERA: The culinary delights of Herb's Fine Foods, a 64-year-old icon on 24th Street, are now part of Noe Valley history. Herb's regulars were stunned to wake up on Tuesday, Sept. 18, and find the diner closed, with no warning. The following morning, workmen loaded up trucks with the restaurant's fixtures, kitchen supplies, and greasy spoons. Over the next few days, many people were seen standing near the entrance under the draped scaffolding (the building is being painted), peering into the windows past the red-and-white-checked curtains and paying their final respects.

One of Herb's regulars, Paul Kantus, a Noe Valley resident since 1926, was especially sad about the cafe's demise. "I've been eating an early [6:30 a.m.] breakfast there for the past 20 years. It had a great ambience for me, and all of us had our same seats and good conversations all these years," Kantus says. "I'm sorry to see Herb's go, especially their affordable prices for us seniors in the neighborhood. I will miss my poached eggs on toast or English muffin, and the bottomless cup of coffee."

So why did Herb's close?

"I had no choice but to close," says owner Rita Kawas. "The landlord wanted me to enter into a new lease and have me pay much more rent than the business could afford to pay, so I had to move out.... They own the building."

Kawas understands the locals' frustration, but says it couldn't be helped. "That's business," she shrugs. "I feel sorry for all our regular customers, so many over the years."

Some say Herb's passing—considering the current Darwinian economic climate, as well as evolving food tastes—was inevitable. In fact, the cafe had an amazingly long run. It opened in 1943 and became Herb's Fine Foods in 1953. In 1974, Herb Gaines sold the restaurant to Sam Kawas, who met Rita, his wife to be, at the lunch counter in the mid-1970s when she became a waitress. Sam and Rita got married in the early '80s, and they ran Herb's together until Sam passed away two years ago.

"It used to be a creamery and soda fountain in the 1930s, because I can remember being a student at Lick Junior High in 1939, and we used to all go there for milkshakes after school," reminisces Kantus, who is our neighborhood's top archivist. "I'll miss it."

When I was starving for items for this column back in 1981, Sam agreed to share the suggestion box at Herb's. One of my favorite suggestions was: "More jus on the roast beef au jus."



IT'S BEEN A BLUE MOON since the "Blue Church" at Church and 28th streets was reportedly going to be demolished to create a four-story condominium project. It appears that it could be another blue moon before demolition will actually occur.

The September meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors hosted a spokesperson for the developer, James Branch (1596 Church Street Condominiums, LLC), who bought the church property two years ago. He has been trying to evict the church—officially known as the Church at San Francisco—Where Jesus Christ Is Lord, Inc.—and its pastor, Joesiah Bell, since the end of February.

Residents living near the church attended the Neighbors meeting to get an update on the eviction and to report that they had been filing complaints with the city saying the building is serving as a homeless shelter.

The developer's spokesperson, Valerie Camarda, told the crowd that legal action was still pending to evict the church and pastor, and estimated it could take another 45 days before there would be a court hearing.

Pastor Joesiah Bell refused to comment



Herb's Fine Foods, a fixture on 24th Street for more than half a century, closed abruptly last month, causing indigestion in its longtime fans.

Photo by Sally Smith

on any of the legal wrangling, and instead referred the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (yours truly) to the attorney who is representing the Church at San Francisco, Craig Martin.

According to Martin, there has been previous litigation between the two parties, including an eviction proceeding against the church that was dismissed in May. Another eviction proceeding went to trial at the beginning of July, and the church again prevailed. "They [Branch et al] have also filed a petition to compel arbitration," says Martin, "so this could be going on for a while." Martin notes the key issue in all of this is payment of "the \$100,000 relocation fee that was promised but not paid."

The developer's lawyer, Drexel Bradshaw, claims the eviction proceedings are justified because the premises are not being used for church purposes and "half a dozen homeless people are living there." Bradshaw also contends that the "relocation fee has been paid in full" and there is no reason why the church should not give up possession.

Each side is confident in their position.

which is the essential ingredient for a lengthy litigation.

However, stay tuned for updates on when the wrecking ball will swing. As we have learned from Herb's, nothing lasts forever.



SOFAS AND TABLES AND CHAIRS. OH MY: A few blocks up the street, another location is causing a buzz—the former Mikeytom Market at the corner of Church and Day.

As everyone can see from the sign on the freshly painted brown building, the storefront, vacant for over four years, will be opening soon as a contemporary furniture store named Artesanías.

Co-owner Craig Kohler is "excited to open in this neighborhood," and says he and his partners are also expanding their showroom on Greenwich Street in Cow Hollow. When they opened that business, their specialty was hand-crafted furniture imported from Latin America, but for Noe Valley they're also adding some new furniture

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

lines, one-of-a-kind decor like sculptures and oil paintings, and a bigger selection of sofas, chairs, and beds. "We will have a full line of home furnishings and make customer service our number-one priority, which is so important when you are doing business in the neighborhoods," Kohler says.

He's right about that one.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE WRECKING BALL is waiting to visit the Real Food Company on 24th Street, vacant since October 2003. However, that ball may not arrive for at least another year. The demolition permit application was made in April, and the process can take around 18 months. The plan is to have a first-floor retail store and residential units above.

However, responding to pressure from the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association to clean up the façade of the building so it's not such an eyesore, the building owner, Nutraceutical Corporation, has applied a fresh coat of mustard-yellow paint to the front of the building and promised to fix the broken windows.

Of course, if Whole Foods takes over Bell Market across the street—a move that is thought to be a strong possibility (see last month's *Voice*)—then Real Food may never move back into the space. That presents an interesting scenario. Maybe Nutraceutical can sell its property to Whole Foods, which can then demolish the building and construct an extra parking lot for its customers, with an elevated crosswalk linking the two buildings. Yeah, right.

Up the street at the store recently vacated by Rite Aid, it looks as if Wells Fargo Bank will be moving into half of the space and renting out the other half, according to an update from the August meeting of the Noe Valley Merchants. They would not say who is going to take over the other half, but

the rumor on the street is that it will become an office of the California State Automobile Association (AAA), which is closing down its main Van Ness Avenue headquarters and setting up satellites.

Michael Glazer has closed his Downtown Noe Valley Allstate Insurance office at 1326 Castro (below the Noe Valley Law Office), and now is located in Downtown San Mateo at 1300 Dore Avenue, near where he lives.

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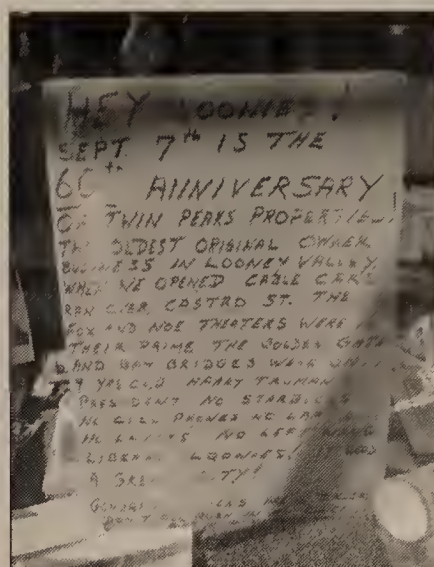
MURAL AL FRESCO: The parking lot owned by the Noe Valley Ministry (at 24th and Vicksburg) and home to the Saturday Farmers' Market will soon be adorned by murals by famed muralist Mona Caron. The art will cover the walls of the two buildings on either side of the lot, Pete's Cleaners on the east and Haystack Pizza on the west.

Caron started painting in mid-August and hopes to have both murals finished by next May. The mural on Pete's will have two scenes of Noe Valley from the past—one of the semi-rural Rancho San Miguel in the late 1800s and another of the 1930s cable-car line at 24th and Castro. A third scene on the same mural will depict "a utopian future vision" of Noe Valley, she says, with bike paths, trees, solar-powered buildings, and birds flying overhead. Haystack's wall will have a present-day panorama of 24th Street from Grand View to the Mission.

Look for both walls to bear Caron's botanical stamp: huge plants and flowers. "There will be vegetables, or rather flowers and leaves of vegetables, such as artichokes," she says, "and also a floating ribbon weaving in and out of the plants, and on the ribbon will be detailed scenes of images of Noe Valley at different times."

Caron says she and her assistant, Lisa Ruth Elliot, and a crew of volunteers from the community will be painting on a daily basis until spring. The mural project has a grant from the city as well as approval from the Arts Commission, plus lots of input from local residents and businesses.

Speaking of muralists, kudos to Noe Valley filmmaker Laurie Coyle, who co-di-



Harry Aleo's window at Twin Peaks Properties sported a new message last month.

rected (with Rick Tejada-Flores) the documentary *Orozco: Man of Fire*. The one-hour film about Mexican muralist Jose Clemente Orozco (1883-1949) premiered nationally on PBS's American Masters series Sept. 19.

☎ ☎ ☎

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY: Twin Peaks Realty and its Noe Valley owner Harry Aleo in September celebrated 60 years of doing business in Downtown Noe Valley. Aleo opened his real estate business in 1947 in the spot where Haystack Pizza is now, and moved to his present location up 24th Street near Castro in 1958. He has been a mover and a shaker in Noe Valley for all these years, once serving the Noe Valley Merchants Association as its president.

These days, he has hit the national spotlight for his fast horses. First, it was *Lost in the Fog*. Now it is sprinter Smokey Stover, who will be running in the Breeders' Cup at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, New Jersey, on the last weekend in October.

To commemorate his 60th, Aleo put a fresh sign in his famous store window: "Hey, Loonies. Sept. 7 is the 60th anniversary of Twin Peaks Properties, the oldest

original-owner business in Looney Valley. When we opened, cable cars ran over Castro Street. The Fox and Noe Theaters were in their prime. The Golden Gate and Bay Bridges were only nine years old [actually 10 and 11, respectively], Harry Truman was president. No Starbucks, no cell phones, no laptops, no lattes. No left-wing liberal loonies. It was a great city! Congratulations are in order. Don't all rush in at once."

Congrats, Harry. Here's hoping for 60 more.

☎ ☎ ☎

CONGRATULATIONS also go out to the hundreds of you who participated in the "Loren Schaller Blood Drive for Three Heroes," organized by Fair Oaks Street residents Kathleen Albert and Madeline Pfeiffer. The blood drive was held on Sept. 15 at St. Philip's Church, which donated space for the event.

As reported last month, Noe Valley teen Loren Schaller was attacked by a mentally disturbed man with a knife while she was standing in line at Creighton's Bakery up by Tower Market last May. Three Good Samaritans came to her aid, one of whom was a doctor who probably saved her life.

Says Pfeiffer, "The blood drive was a spectacular event, and really showed us all what a great community spirit exists in our neighborhood. Hundreds of people turned out to donate blood, and I am told that the 120 pints we collected was a large number when it comes to these kinds of events."

Loren's parents, Linda and Tim Schaller told the *Voice* in September they were accompanying 15-year-old Loren to St. Louis Children's Hospital in Missouri for nerve-transfer surgery on her right arm. They expected to return on Oct. 3 if all went well.

"Loren is one of the Hoffman Avenue Halloween haunted house creators," notes her mom. "Unfortunately, we won't have a haunted house this year."

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT'S ALL, you all, and the best of luck to you, Loren. We are rooting for your complete recovery. Ciao for now.



NOE VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC 2007/08 SEASON

Opening Concert
Sunday, October 14

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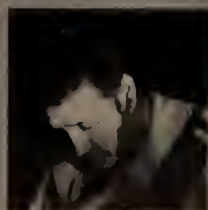
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We hope to see you soon!



Our Readers Write More From Far Afield

Now that the season has officially changed, it's more important than ever to recall those days of shorts and sun and help your neighbors to some visual treats. If you'd like to share tales of your travels in our next issue, please e-mail your story and photo to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. If pen and paper is more to your liking, you can mail the info to the Noe Valley Voice, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Thank you, we look forward to seeing your story here.



They're a long way from 25th Street, but **Tommy** and **Ryan Orlando** brought their hometown newspaper on their Spring vacation in case they couldn't see San Francisco from the top of the Empire State Building



Paul McWilliams found a quiet corner to continue his reading in the ruins of an ancient jungle temple in Siem Reap, Cambodia.



Gerry Garber and **Mark, Rebecca,** and **Natalie Jacobsen** tried to interest their new friend in their local newspaper. But the 400 pound resident of the Galapagos had already read that particular issue.



George and **Kay Teiber** vacationed on the island of Hilton Head, South Carolina, recently, and on the way home stopped in Georgia. Above, Kay looks in vain for stock reports in a copy of her hometown newspaper while in front of the Savannah Cotton Exchange.

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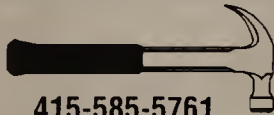
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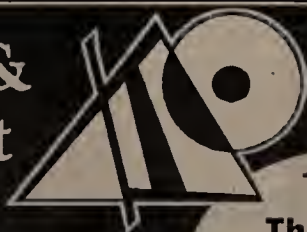
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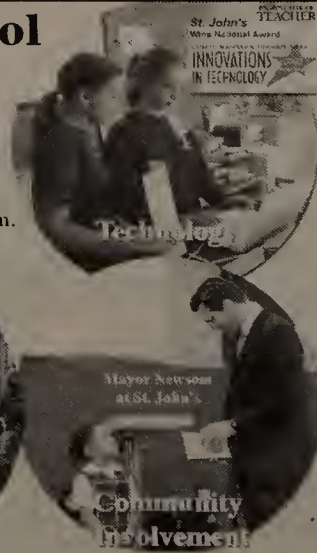
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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966,
or Paula Benton, 248-0235
E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
Meetings: Third Monday, every other
month. Location varies.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
bership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
Francisco, CA 94110

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Meetings: Call for information. Note: The
annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day
before Mother's Day.

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sflyric@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 415-285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contacts: Christina Goebel, 826-7772;
Alexandra Torre, 609-8365
E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com or
noe_park@atorre.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,
San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

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Noe Valley Association-Community Benefit District

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Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage
on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
7:30 p.m.

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Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102
Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Teresa
Gay, 336-6304
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com;
register at www.noevalleymerchants.com.
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.
E-mail for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890
E-mail: mindytower@aol.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet
at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk
route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call
to confirm), 30th Street Senior Center, 225
30th St., 7:30 p.m.

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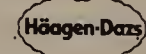
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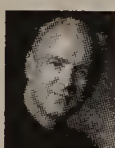
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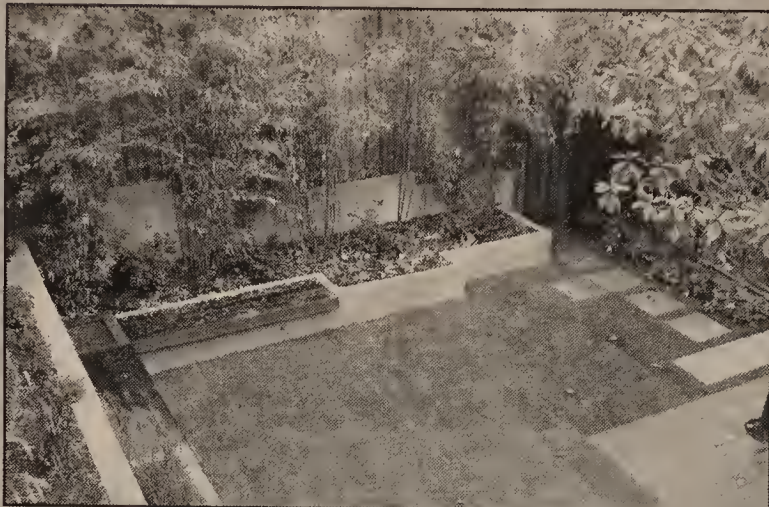
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Noe Street author Valerie Miner has always been interested in what she calls “the impact of geographical frontier on character.” And many of her 13 books have focused on love and idealism, and how they’re tested by change.

Her latest novel, *After Eden*, is no exception. Published in April by the University of Oklahoma Press, it is the story of Emily Adams, a city planner from Chicago who finds herself staying on at her summer cabin in coastal California after she learns of the sud-

den death of her long-term partner, Salerno. “One of the novel’s themes is the contemplation of the search for home and how one person’s claim on it can cause another person to feel invaded,” says Miner.

The story also deals with the clash between loggers and environmentalists, and with native Californians and the migrant workers who work the lush agricultural land of MacKenzie Valley (read Mendocino).

Miner, a professor of English and feminist studies as well as an artist-in-residence at Stanford Univer-

sity, took inspiration from a real-life cabin in Mendocino, one in which she has stayed with her partner on numerous occasions over the past 26 years. *After Eden* was also inspired by John Milton’s classic epic poem *Paradise Lost*, itself a reinterpretation of the Bible’s book of Genesis.

“I fiddled with a lot of things,” Miner says with a smile. “The arc angels are gay male lovers. Adam and Eve are two women. And the serpent is a garden hose.”

She also says that fire is the novel’s central metaphor. “Fire is cultivated to

heat homes and cook food and prepare the land for crops. But it can also destroy, and the valley in the book is vulnerable to conflagration.”

As Emily grieves for Salerno, Miner says, she also comes to understand the complexities of the community she has only ever stayed in as a seasonal resident until now.

Miner herself is learning to appreciate the complexities of Noe Valley, her home of three years. “I love the sense of neighborhood here. I love the farmers’ market, and am there every Satur-



Valerie Miner Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

day. I really like my neighbors—they’re supportive and friendly but non-intrusive,” she says.

Many of Miner’s friends and neighbors will be at the Duboce Park Café, 2 Sanchez Street, on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m., when she will read from *After Eden* and discuss writing in general.

The book will be available there, as well as at Cover to Cover Booksellers and Phoenix Books and Records in Noe Valley. To learn more about Valerie Miner’s work, visit her web site at www.valerieminer.com. Meanwhile, an excerpt from the first chapter of *After Eden* appears below.

—Olivia Boler

from the novel

After Eden

BY VALERIE MINER

Near the turn of the twenty-first century

She was determined to arrive before dark. Nine hours driving from Somewhere, Nevada, and she certainly wasn’t going to stop now. Emily stretched her neck from side to side and took a long breath of warm California evening. Still some green in the land.

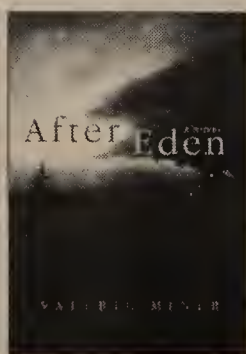
The ground was a deep golden color, which, she knew, would grow paler and paler throughout the summer until the tall grass itself seemed a mirage.

Phoenix, slumped in the passenger’s seat, barked halfheartedly as Emily passed another car. She reached over, scratching the dog’s furry blond ears. “Home,” she whispered, “you’ll be home tonight, girl.”

It had been a hectic year in Chicago, and as much as she loved her job she needed to settle into the cabin, prepare it for Salerno’s arrival. A refugee racing for the border, Emily stepped on her accelerator, concentrating on the road ahead. If she didn’t get stuck behind too many lumber trucks or RVs, she’d make it to Fairburn by six forty-five. And home a little after seven. With an hour of light to spare.

Home. She had said home. Thought home. Felt home. For so many years Beulah Ranch had been Salerno’s wacky dream. When Salerno found the land with her three friends Angela, Virginia, and Ruth, Emily had pretended not to think much about it. A good place to camp on spring weekends and maybe five to ten days in the summer. But during the last decade, while building their ever-unfinished cabin, and especially since they moved from the Bay Area to Chicago, Emily had come to regard this rough cottage in the coastal range first as an indulgence, then a sanctuary.

This highway between Lawnston and Jerseydale was the curviest bit of the whole six-day jour-



ney and she had to concentrate on steering, although her attention was drawn by discreet exits onto small dirt roads. People cherished privacy here, wanted to be alone with their families and cattle and sheep in their hidden edens. In town, of course, they were quite sociable. Out toward the east, maybe as far as Ukiah, rose feathers of smoke. She hoped this was a controlled burn, not a wildfire. The live oak trees shone brilliantly in the mid-June evening. Prairie-like purple grasses swam in the early evening breeze as schools of tiny daisies floated over the hills.

Here, seasons felt more subtle than in the Midwest, where the world went white for five months, then muddy for weeks before the commencement of summer’s terrible used-car green. Her Chicago friends called her a California chauvinist. She assured them that she loved the Illinois autumn—the crisp air, the trees turning somersaults of color around their grand lake.

Now Emily breathed in a sense of well-being. Her body felt more natural in Northern California. Oh, she didn’t believe in any sentimental harmony. But she did feel less adversarial where she didn’t have to fight for warmth or clean air. Where life pulsed more slowly, as the green hills toasted, new wildflowers emerged and exited, every summer week.

“Welcome to the MacKenzie Valley,” a simple wooden sign on the side of the highway.

Her solitude ending, Emily reflected on the peaceful ride with her dog across the country. The drive had been slower than the usual summer pilgrimage with Salerno. She had taken a day off to hike in the Tetons. And she had loved listening to her book tapes, especially to *Paradise Lost* for the last two days. Her job as a city planner was a way to do something and earn a living from it, too. But she would die if she weren’t in the middle of a good book. She had always relished Milton’s language, the fabulous imagery of the poem, Lucifer’s dramatic haughtiness and God’s wild rages. During the ride, she had also played a couple of Salerno’s solo CDs, but the damn dog whined so mournfully that she had to pack them away.

What a different trip this would have been with Salerno beside her—less predictable, less efficient, more playful. Salerno courted adventure, reaped mishap: a tire blown because of a detour to a beautiful but unsurfaced country road, just for a glimpse of rural beauty. A gas tank gone empty because, while Emily had napped, Salerno had tried to make the extra distance to surprise her partner. After fifteen years, she still believed

Emily liked surprises.

Now Emily had to prepare for human encounter. For that particular country society where you ran into your doctor at the farmers’ market and the haircutter was in your yoga class; where the bookshop doubled as office supply store, fax dispensary, photocopying facility; where you picked up your UPS parcels at Green’s Hardware Store. Most cultural events were held in the Valley Community Hall between Montero and Fairburn—everything from Veterans of Foreign Wars dinners to Cinco de Mayo festivities to benefits for the funky community radio station.

Was it better to live in a place where everyone was intimate with everyone else’s doings or among city folk who prized anonymity? Odd how she had more privacy in Chicago. People left you alone—gave you space—avoided talking to condo neighbors in the elevator or people seated next to them on the El. Attitudes about courtesy and safety were the reverse here in the country, where it was an affront not to greet, not to chat, not to remember the son had been ill, the horse in foal. Sometimes Chicago felt quieter than the Valley. The noise of buses and drill hammers and car alarms and cellular phones merged into an indistinguishable, if not soothing, blur of sound. Here in the Valley she recognized particular voices. Mechanical sounds were unusual enough to be intrusive. The birds were also distinctive, distracting. (Birds in Chicago: of course they saw birds in Chicago—pigeons, gulls, and those small black-brown-dark birds, what was wrong with her?) Here she was alert for kites and ospreys and turkey vultures and blue herons and jays and red-winged blackbirds and egrets and those splendid owls. Here she awoke at sunrise and waited at day’s end for sunset. Chicago had the more rigorous climate, but you just bundled up and got through it, especially in winter, trying to ignore the chilled difference between 15 degrees and –5 degrees. In the Valley she always felt the weather, reached after the weather. The soft damp morning fog from the coast. The dry oven heat of August midafternoons. The moist reprieve of evening. These two lives—in the northern city and the western valley—summoned different bodies, different personalities. Was her California self reconstructed yet? Was she ready?



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